

Sheep To Nations

By

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USA

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Introduction

This book is a journey. Together, we will peer over the horizon into the near and distant future from the highest viewpoint we can have access to—the Holy Bible. We will examine, postulate, and even speculate as to the actual meaning and essence of the glimpses offered by God into our fate as a collective and as individuals. We will do this without fear or blind acceptance of dogma, and with an unwavering appreciation and acceptance of the Word of God as given to us already.

As you read through this presentation, know that I have the absolute highest respect and awe of the truth as given in scripture. I pledge to not waver from the truth as given to us over the ages past, even if I share some of my own musings that might seem fantastic.

I do not promise to adhere to any particular doctrine, dogma, or creed as we progress. In fact, I offer the opposite: an unwavering adherence to truth, without regard to what others have postulated previously. This is because I do not view truth through the eyes or ideas of others, but through the lens of biblical insight and instruction. I will let the Holy Writing guide me in every detail, from the highest to the lowest of expectations.

Join me, as we learn a new way of seeing what our Lord has declared from the earliest days of antiquity. Let us open our minds to the possibilities of truths that have been

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hiding in plain sight, right before our eyes but missed by generations of expositors. After all, the Lord has hinted at opening our minds in the last days, and we very well might be in that era already.

Come, see what awaits and what may have been missed all these long centuries by our beloved ancestors and contemporaries. But first, take a moment to prepare your mind for inevitable expansion into new territory. Be ready to have your mind blown.

Method

It's important to lay some ground rules for Bible interpretation and a couple of theological concepts. Therefore, I'll share how my own biblical hermeneutic works (how I interpret the Bible) and then drive a couple of quick stakes into doctrinal ground so you'll know where I'm rooted.

Bible Interpretation

Since writing an earlier book, *End Times Made Easy*, which is also about the future as presented in the Bible, my views on interpretation have not changed. So I'll save myself some time and copy some from that introduction here. I've only made a couple of adjustments to match the message of this work.

You may notice as we proceed that I am using a method of Bible interpretation (*hermeneutics*) that is known as the "Plain Meaning" method. With it, we don't

exactly take everything literally, but we don't allow everything to be symbolic either. Biblical authors use all kinds of methods for getting their story told: Metaphors, colloquialisms or figures of speech, poetry, societal references, juxtapositions, similes, historical references, and so forth. The list is long and it is up to us to try to understand what the author was trying to convey. Quite often, the words are to be taken literally. Our approach is to go for the most obvious meaning, however difficult to swallow. We do this by keeping everything in context with the rest of scripture.

So, as we go through this study, we are going to follow these simple guidelines:

1. The Bible is true and does not contradict itself.
2. The difficult, vague or unclear verses are interpreted or understood in light of the clear ones.
3. A "Plain Meaning" interpretation is favorable over all other approaches.
4. *Exegesis* over *eisegesis*, which just means that we are going to take the Bible for what it says, rather than try to force our preconceptions or desires onto it.

All of the events that we study will be future events. This is known as the futurist model, or *futurism*. This just means that these things have not happened yet. For example: the destruction of the 2nd temple in 70 AD could not have been done by the antichrist (since Jesus will kill

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him when Jesus returns) and there must be another temple constructed in the End Times in which the antichrist reveals himself (see 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4).

Another example would be that ALL of the events described in the *Olivet Discourse* (Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, and Luke 21) are also future events – not events that have been occurring over the centuries since the first advent (appearing) of Jesus.

Also, my view does not see a distinction between Israel and the Church as believers. While I embrace that the Church is no longer Jew or Gentile (Galatians 3:28), I also acknowledge that the covenants made to Israel will be fulfilled as prophesied (see Romans 11, especially verse 16: “And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their descendants will also be holy—just as the entire batch of dough is holy because the portion given as an offering is holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too.”).

I agree that the Church has been grafted-in to Judaism (Romans 11:17), but reject the notion of *replacement theology*, which claims the Church has replaced Israel as God’s people.

The problem with many of these categories of doctrinal thought is that there is much confusion or obfuscation throughout most (if not all) of them. For this reason, one should know the positions in total before

jumping onto their respective bandwagons. It may be that you only agree with part of a view, and not the whole thing.

It should also be pointed out that the “End Times” or “Last Days” began when the Lord ascended into heaven and will end when He triumphantly returns with His angel armies (Matthew 25:31; 2 Thessalonians 1:7–8; Revelation 19:14; Zechariah 14:5, Acts 1:9–11, etc.). This is the time called by some “The Church Age” or “The New Covenant Era”. Some believe it began at Pentecost, with the giving of the Holy Spirit, while others, like me, say it began with the ascension of Jesus (or end of the First Advent). At this point, some two thousand years later, it makes no difference which beginning marker we use. And whether we pin it to the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit or Christ’s two advents, the end of this time will be the same – when the Lord returns and establishes His millennial kingdom. (However, I do not buy into the concept of a “Church Age”, since the term implies an end to it. The Church will never end. So it does not have an “Age”, per se. What I do say is that His Church is completed at His return.)

While the apostles may not have known that this age (End Times) would be as long lasting as it has been, they must have understood that it would end with the Lord taking His rightful place on the throne of earth. I say this because of their question to Him on the Mount of Olives, “... what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” (Matthew 24:3) His answer seems to confirm this

interpretation, as He ties His *Olivet Discourse* with the Second Advent and the gathering together of His elect.

The Three-Fold Nature of the Jews

I think it may be helpful to understand the different ways to look at the Jews, Israelites, or Israelis (however you wish to refer to them).

1. The Jews are a RACE. They are descended from their father, Jacob, also known as Israel.
2. The Jews are a NATION with geographical borders, now called Israel.
3. The Jews have their own RELIGION. Judaism is arguably the only religion established by God (with Christianity being a relationship, not a religion, and as an addendum to Judaism). God first offered a relationship to Abraham through faith (and by extension to all others who believe), and later introduced religion, through the Law of Moses, to show how much we need the relationship. Paul discusses this in Romans 4 and Galatians 3.

As we go through this study, it will become important to distinguish between these three natures of the Jews and how each is treated by God in the Bible, specifically regarding prophecy.

For instance, as *a race*, the Jews still retain the covenants established between their forefathers (the

patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) and God. They will continue to be “His People” on into the millennium.

Ezekiel 39:²⁵ “So now, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will end the captivity of my people; I will have mercy on all Israel, for I jealously guard my holy reputation! ²⁶ They will accept responsibility for their past shame and unfaithfulness after they come home to live in peace in their own land, with no one to bother them. ²⁷ When I bring them home from the lands of their enemies, I will display my holiness among them for all the nations to see. ²⁸ Then my people will know that I am the Lord their God, because I sent them away to exile and brought them home again. I will leave none of my people behind. ²⁹ And I will never again turn my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit upon the people of Israel. I, the Sovereign Lord, have spoken!” (NLT)

As *a nation*, certain events will come upon them, which will affect all inhabitants of their land.

Ezekiel 38: ⁸ “A long time from now you will be called into action. In the distant future you will swoop down on the land of Israel, which will be enjoying peace after recovering from war and after its people have returned from many lands to the mountains of Israel. ⁹ You and all your allies—a vast and awesome army—will roll down on them like a storm and cover the land like a cloud. (NLT)

As *a religious body*, the Christians have been grafted-in to their number, though we do not use the

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sacrificial system nor depend on the Law of Moses for atonement.

Romans 11:¹⁷ But some of these branches from Abraham's tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God's special olive tree. ¹⁸ But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root.

¹⁹ “Well,” you may say, “those branches were broken off to make room for me.” ²⁰ Yes, but remember—those branches were broken off because they didn't believe in Christ, and you are there because you do believe. So don't think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen. ²¹ For if God did not spare the original branches, he won't spare you either. (NLT)

Also important to their religion is how it was profoundly changed by Christ and His cross. The Law of Moses is no longer viewed as effective for the atonement of sin (making us “right” with God) by God's elect; only the cross of Christ is sufficient for entry into sainthood. Therefore, the current true Judaism is Christian, insofar as salvation is concerned. We gentile (non-Jewish) believers may not follow the law of Moses, but it still shows us why we are unable to earn glorification through observing it (or

through any other “good” works). No religion can make you a saint, not even Judaism. Only accepting the cross of Christ as a substitutionary atonement for your sinful standing before God can bring you into Christ’s glory. And this must come with repentance and surrender to Jesus.

Religion vs Faith

Perhaps the most impactful contrast that will come out of this study is the difference between a religious approach to God and one of faith. In fact, this is foundational to the heart of this presentation. I’ll not dive into it yet in this introduction—it will have its own section. Just know that the distinction is paramount to understanding the crux of this message.

About the Author

Whether you think that academic achievement is important or not, you should know that I have never attended a university—only a few community college courses for self-improvement.

For some, this is seen as a detriment or disqualifier. For others, it shows that my views have not been sculpted or molded to fit a particular established paradigm. For me, it gives the freedom to see things as they are given in scripture and elsewhere, without coloration. It has allowed me to be a clean slate, ready to be imprinted by God’s Word and little else. Therefore, I walk alone as a one-man-band, without climbing onto anyone else’s bandwagon. Or if you

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like dog and cat metaphors, I have no specific breed to call my pedigree. Like sports metaphors? I'm a free agent. C.S. Lewis would have called me a "mere Christian".

All this means is that I speak for myself with what God has given to me personally for understanding and you cannot put me in a prepackaged box. I have no denomination, sect, or creed that I adhere to. I don't even claim to be a "Nondenom", Protestant, or Evangelical. I'm just a disciple of my Big Brother, Yeshua (Jesus), and I follow Him and Him alone. And though I am neither a Pentecostal nor Charismatic, I know that I have the gift of knowledge (words of knowledge for you who split hairs). I have received visions and understanding directly from my Lord about many things.

Please read on, as I unpack what has been hiding in plain sight in the same scriptures that you read on a regular basis (hopefully). I very much doubt that you have ever received this doctrine as it is about to be revealed. I know that I have never been taught in church what I am about to share. I received this understanding while reading His Word and then having an epiphany about it.

No matter what your background is, it is quite likely that you may have some degree of skepticism over at least something that I share here. So I will try my best to show the biblical references for how this all came together for me. Hopefully, that will ease any tension that springs up within you.

The Gospel

Through all of this, please know that I am not changing one thing about the Gospel of Christ. As far as I am concerned, that is written in stone and cannot be altered one bit. As we go through this study, you will see how I view both salvation for the saints and recovery for those without faith in Jesus.

Romans 1:17 This Good News tells us how God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by **faith**. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.” (NLT)

I pledge to you that I am not altering this message one iota. What I say is that the message of the cross is for salvation into *sainthood*. But I am going to show you how the Bible presents another way to enter into God’s kingdom. A lower form of recovery from eternal death. It does not bring the righteousness that faith does. For true righteousness is by faith (Romans 3:22). And that is what we should be striving for. But there are those in the world who anyone would call “good people”. They are kind and gentle and care for others, but they just lack the faith in Christ that is needed for sainthood. Well, I am about to offer hope to you for those who do not have the same faith that you do. This may be a close friend or a relative whom you have prayed and worried for due to their inability to believe. Hold onto that hope and care that you have for the lost. Encourage them to be as good toward others as they

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can be. Not that being “good” will save them as you, fellow saint, are saved, but that the Good Lord will extend His grace to them as well for the way that they have treated you and your brethren in the faith. For it is by grace that anyone enters the Holy Kingdom.

Why This Matters

If you’re a believer in Jesus and saved into sainthood through faith, the main concept presented here will have very little impact on your life, and zero effect on your walk with God. The actual effect of this new doctrine is for others who are not saved by faith in the cross.

However, if you are one who knows people who are not believers and who completely shun the gospel message, such as some Jews or those in other religions, then you might find it possible to lessen your worry over their eternal souls. This concept, drawn from Scripture, is something like the safety net beneath a trapeze—never the goal, but mercifully there for those who miss the catch. I’ll not spoil the impact of it with any more detail yet but this will highlight the grace and mercy of our beloved Lord.

I would recommend that you allow the Bible’s message here to soften your sharp edges when witnessing to others. Realize that very little in the Bible is purely black or white and that there is much nuance given in the message from God. In fact, over the centuries, the net effect of man’s doctrinal classifications and expositions has been mostly a simplification where complexity exists, or

complication where simplicity should persist. If you agree with the analyses that are drawn out from the Holy Bible here, then you very well might look differently on other faiths—perhaps with a bit more understanding and compassion.

For me, personally, I have found this to ease my own pain over my loved ones or others who are loving and kind but unable to grasp the faith they need.

The Flow

Since my own studies have led me from mainstream End Times views into more traditional and historic views (I'm camped nearby historic premillennialism), I feel it would help to start off the study with an overview of the traditional interpretation of these prophetic times. So that's what we will do. Feel free to jump past the first chapter, if you feel bogged down by it. You can always circle back to it if you feel lost later. The "meat" of the study begins in chapter two.

Introduction Discussion and Reflection

At the end of each chapter, there will be a page for facilitating reflection and group discussion. Here is one for practice:

Questions:

1. What form of Bible interpretation, called hermeneutics, is used by the author?
2. What are the three ways to categorize the Jews?
3. What is the Gospel message?

Answers:

1. Plain Meaning—It considers all forms of interpretation, while seeking the most obvious message of the text, however difficult to accept.
2. As a **race**—They have a common ancestor (unless converts to Judaism)
As a **nation**—They have national borders, history, and other distinctions that all nations have.
As a **religious group**—Judaism is their religion and is arguably the only one started by God.
3. We are saved by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ for our atonement with God, coupled with our repentance.

Reflection: Are believing Jews and gentile (non-Jewish) believers in the same body of Christ? (*See Romans 11*)

Chapter 1: End Times Preview

Since there are so many views on the End Times, I think it will help to at least show you where I land in this highly contentious and confusing area of biblical study. So this chapter is an introduction to the historic view that I am most closely aligned with. If you have another view, are not sure what your view is, or are staunchly loyal to a particular stand or teacher, then this might be helpful for you. Just try to not get upset if this is not what your pastor or favorite teacher teaches.

Main Views

When young people who are drawn to ministry enter into seminary, they are typically hit with a plethora of opposing views in eschatology (the part about the End Times). Many of them turn to one or another systematically pre-packaged model and stick with it, without really taking a deep-dive into the whole subject as given in the Bible. This is understandable, since they are being bombarded by so many other biblical topics in a short period of time. But the end result is a very structured population in the ministerial fields. They are herded into groups of theology that may or may not be compatible with each other. Unfortunately, this is an automatic division of the Church. And since each seminary graduate is potentially going to affect the outlook of many, many believers or seekers, the entire body of Christ is effectually

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fractured as a result. And when a topic, like this one, has an emotional impact on people, the wedge can be quite harsh and unloving.

I will try my best to not exacerbate this divide. But the divisions, factions, and feelings are real. So keeping this in mind, let's take a high-altitude look at the main views of eschatology. If you find yourself getting even mildly upset, take a minute and ask the Lord for His peace to flow over your heart and soul. After we look at the various views, we will drill into a timeline of the one that I favor.

The first arena we fly over is regarding the timing of the Lord's glorious return. Not every part of eschatology is important. For example, the timing of the return of Christ is less important than the *fact* of it. None of these doctrines on the return of our Lord is worth holding a grudge against a fellow believer with a different view. In other words, the *fact* of His return is actually nonnegotiable, while the *timing* of it is an opportunity for grace.

In all of these three main views, the reference point is the next age of Earth—the Millennium. They each are named and framed according to that era. This means that their names reflect that. So when you read the names of these, you are seeing a hint as to their connection to that epoch. For each, I'll offer a short primer on where it came from, along with a few perceived strengths and weaknesses—just enough to orient you before moving on.

Premillennialism

Overview

Premillennialism teaches that Jesus will return **before** the Millennium begins. This view takes Scripture at face value and follows the plain sequence from Matthew 24 and Revelation 19–21 (for starters). The Lord physically returns, defeats His enemies, and establishes His kingdom on Earth for a thousand years. After that, there's one final rebellion, followed by the judgment and the new creation.

But not all premillennial views are alike. Two very different camps exist within it: one follows the text; the other overrides and reinterprets it.

Historic Premillennialism

This view teaches that:

- Christ returns **after** the Tribulation (Matthew 24:29–31)
- The saints are **resurrected and raptured at His return** (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17)
- Those glorified saints then **reign with Him** for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4–6)
- Satan is **bound, then released**, then defeated permanently (Revelation 20:1–10)
- The **final judgment** and eternal state follow (Revelation 20:11–21:8)

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This straightforward sequence requires no rearranging of the text. It aligns with the prophets, Jesus, and Paul—and was held by early church fathers like Justin Martyr and Irenaeus. It does not rely on invented systems or assumptions.

Supporting scriptures:

- **Revelation 20:4–6** — Saints live and reign with Christ for a thousand years after His return
- **Matthew 24:29–31** — Jesus returns *immediately after* the Tribulation and gathers His elect
- **1 Thessalonians 4:16–17** — The dead in Christ rise, the living are caught up together with them at the Lord’s return
- **Zechariah 14:4, 9** — The Lord lands on the Mount of Olives and reigns as King
- **Acts 1:11** — Jesus will return in the same way He left
- **2 Thessalonians 2:1–3** — The Day of the Lord will not come until the man of sin is revealed

Dispensational Premillennialism

A much newer view, Dispensationalism, splits the return of Christ into two events: an invisible rapture **before** the Tribulation, and a visible return **after** it. It also insists on a hard distinction between Israel and the Church.

Its assumptions include:

- A **pre-Tribulation rapture**, often read into 1 Thessalonians 4:17 without any stated timing
- The **absence of the Church in Revelation** after chapter 4—despite the presence of saints, witnesses, and the Bride
- A rigid **Israel/Church division**—contradicted by Ephesians 2:14–16 and Galatians 3:28
- A **future gap** between the 69th and 70th weeks of Daniel—entirely assumed (Daniel 9:27)—rather than the 2,000-year gap that has existed

One common claim is that because the word “church” (Greek *ekklesia*) doesn’t appear in Revelation 6–18, the Church must be gone. But that logic fails. The Church is referred to repeatedly—just in different terms: saints, overcomers, the woman, the offspring, “those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (Revelation 12:17, 14:12), and the Bride.

Also worth noting:

The word *church* is only used **twice** in the Gospels—and only in **Matthew**. It’s missing from many New Testament books altogether (e.g., 2 Timothy, Titus, 2 Peter, 1 John). So its absence in any one section of Scripture cannot be used to argue disappearance or irrelevance of the body of believers.

Problems with this view:

- **No early church support**—entirely modern in origin
- **Assumptions override the text**—gaps and categories are imposed, not found
- **Breaks the return of Christ into two events** with no clear biblical foundation
- **Treats silence as proof** and charts as Scripture

Summary

Historic Premillennialism follows a plain-meaning hermeneutic and honors the biblical sequence.

Dispensationalism distorts that sequence with added frameworks and unbiblical assumptions. One draws doctrine from Scripture. The other draws Scripture into a system.

A Quick Sidebar on the Rapture

There are five main views on the timing of the rapture (when living saints meet Jesus in the air):

1. Pretribulation—He will raise the saints before the 7-year tribulation.
2. Midtribulation—He will raise the saints when the Great Tribulation starts.
3. Prewrath—He will raise the saints just before God’s Wrath begins.

4. Posttribulation—He will raise the saints after the tribulation.
5. No Rapture—He will not raise the living saints at all into the sky.

Of these five, **only one can be right**—if any of them are. My own position is Posttribulation, though I place it in the middle of God’s Wrath, which immediately follows the tribulation. I arrive at this position through simple, straightforward reading of the Bible, not by aligning with any predefined system or label.

Postmillennialism

Overview

Postmillennialism teaches that Jesus will return **after** the Millennium. According to this view, the Church gradually brings about worldwide peace, justice, and Christian influence—culminating in a golden age before Christ returns. It gained traction in the 17th–19th centuries, particularly during times of colonial expansion and missionary success, when it seemed plausible that the world might be “Christianized.”

Hopeful Positives:

1. Emphasizes the **transformative power of the gospel**
2. Encourages **active cultural engagement and long-term investment**

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3. Offers a **vision of hope** instead of defeatism

Definite Negatives:

- Scripture repeatedly predicts **escalating deception and wickedness**, not global righteousness (2 Timothy 3:1–5, Matthew 24:9–12)
- Jesus describes His return as coming to a world **like the days of Noah**—not a peaceful golden age (Matthew 24:37–39)
- Revelation presents Christ as returning **to destroy** the beast and false prophet, not inherit a peaceful planet (Revelation 19:11–21)
- Historically, this view **lessened after the World Wars**, which shattered belief in human progress

Postmillennialism often ignores the warnings of apostasy, tribulation, and judgment in order to maintain its optimistic timeline. In doing so, it must **minimize large portions of prophecy** or reframe them as symbolic or past events (called, “preterism”).

Conclusion

The greatest flaw of Postmillennialism is its reliance on an **allegorical or optimistic reinterpretation** of prophecy. It doesn’t flow from a plain-meaning reading of the text, but rather from a theological hope layered onto it. Instead of taking Jesus’ own warnings about worldwide deception and judgment at face value, this view

spiritualizes or sidelines those warnings to preserve its vision of steady human improvement. It sets aside the reality of *how* Jesus said He would return—in vengeance, not celebration.

Amillennialism

Overview

Amillennialism teaches that there **is no literal thousand-year reign** of Christ on Earth. Instead, the “Millennium” is symbolic of the present Church Age—Christ reigns from Heaven now, Satan is already bound, and the resurrection and judgment will occur in a single event at the end.

It became dominant in the 4th century under Augustine and has remained the default view in Roman Catholicism, much of Eastern Orthodoxy, and many Protestant traditions (especially Lutheran and Reformed branches).

Hopeful Positives:

- Sees Christ as **already reigning**—a strong theological anchor
- Affirms the **unity of the people of God** (no Israel/Church split)
- Avoids sensational speculation

Definite Negatives:

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- Requires that **Satan is currently “bound”**—despite passages like 1 Peter 5:8, which warn believers that he “roams like a roaring lion”
- Must **spiritualize Revelation 20**—despite its placement after the return of Christ in Revelation 19
- Flattens the prophetic timeline, **removing any real distinction** between this age and the next
- Struggles to explain **why Jesus would return to end a reign that’s already symbolic and finished**

Where premillennialism sees prophecy as a chronological roadmap, amillennialism reinterprets much of it as metaphor or recurrence. While it avoids some excesses, it often does so by **reducing the clarity and force of prophetic Scripture**.

Conclusion

At its core, Amillennialism leans heavily on a **symbolic hermeneutic**, often treating clear, sequential passages as figurative or timeless. Rather than accepting Revelation 20 as a literal follow-up to Christ’s visible return in Revelation 19, it repositions the “Millennium” as a present reality—one that few believers would recognize in the world around them. This allegorical method not only breaks continuity within the book of Revelation but disconnects many Old Testament promises from their fulfillment in Christ’s future reign. The net result is a view that smooths over tensions in the text by **redefining plain**

statements, which ultimately erodes the reader's ability to trust what Scripture says at face value.

Biblical Warning to the Church About False Doctrine

2 Timothy 4:¹ I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when He comes to set up His Kingdom: ² Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching.

³ **For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching.** They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. ⁴ **They will reject the truth and chase after myths.**

⁵ But you should keep a clear mind in every situation. Don't be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you. (NLT)

That time has clearly come. Whether it's the **overly hopeful outlook** of Postmillennialism, the **symbolic reinterpretation** of Amillennialism, or the **forecast-heavy sensationalism** of modern Dispensationalism, each tends to cater to what people *want* to believe rather than what the Scriptures plainly teach. These systems often sideline direct warnings, redefine key terms, and replace God's clear

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promises with theological extrapolations. The result is a fragmented Body of Christ, less equipped to discern what is unfolding around us. No wonder there is confusion in eschatology more than most areas of theology.

Not all who hold to these views do so maliciously. Many are simply repeating what they were taught. But regardless of intent, the outcome matters. Truth matters to God as much as Love. Love needs truth. Truth needs love. Both need wisdom.

Now that we've flown over the main views, let's descend into the view that most closely reflects both the early Church's understanding and the plain reading of Scripture: a traditional, historic Premillennial timeline.

Historic Premillennial Timeline

After carefully studying the End Times for over 30 years, I've arrived at a solid position on all its elements. I didn't get there by following any one particular view, but by reading the Bible itself and slowly piecing together the parts using a plain-meaning interpretation. I let the Bible's clear passages interpret the more vague ones. I prayed often and allowed both the Spirit and sound logic to guide my thinking.

It's been a long journey—because there are so many moving parts. I can see how false notions have sprung up from hasty attempts to reach conclusions, or simply from repeating what old-so-and-so said without testing it.

But when we let the Bible speak and simply listen—without inserting our own fears, hopes, or agendas—**this** is what I believe we come away with. I hope it enlightens you. If you have any questions as to how I came to these conclusions, see my other End Times book, *End Times Made Easy*, for a deeper dive.

Ezekiel’s War

The very first thing to happen in the timeline is an invasion of Israel from the North, which includes several Islamic nations that surround Israel. This event is nearly imminent and could happen at almost any time. I say “nearly” imminent because there is only one prerequisite: Peace in Israel.

Ezekiel 38:8 A long time from now you will be called into action. In the distant future you will swoop down on the land of Israel, which will be **enjoying peace** after recovering from war and after its people have returned from many lands to the mountains of Israel. (NLT)

This, and the specific nations involved, rules out all other prospects as fulfilling this prophecy. October 7th wasn’t it. None of the recent wars were it. Israel **MUST** be at peace before Ezekiel’s War begins. And in my humble opinion, this will only come with regime change in Iran. And if Iran acts unilaterally (alone), then that will not be it either. If Israel attacks Iran to cripple them (as is happening as I write this) **THAT** will not be it. Here is what must take place for us to know that Ezekiel’s War has begun:

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1. A popular leader attacks Israel, who is from the Caucasus. The possible nations of his roots are: Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey. No other leader will do. No other heritage will count.
2. He aligns himself with these specific nations (and only these nations) for the initial attack:
 - Persia = Iran
 - Cush = Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan (as a region)
 - Put = Libya, Algeria, Tunisia (as a region)
 - Gomer = Turkey
 - Beth-togarmah = Turkey
3. He is successful in claiming what he wants (unlike all other invaders).
4. The leaders will meet at a conference table. An agreement is reached and he pulls out to return home.

This begins the countdown of the 7-year tribulation period. 295 days after the conference table meeting, construction of the temple in Jerusalem will be completed. So when you see the third temple being built in Jerusalem, you can *know with certainty* that the tribulation has indeed begun. (*There'll be more on the timing later.*)

Ezekiel's War will be the main event of the End Times. It will last for about 7½ years and overshadow all other events. It begins with this specific invasion and ends with what we call "Armageddon", a battle centered on the Valley of Megiddo, which is north of Jerusalem.

In Ezekiel 38 and 39, this war is neatly laid out for us. And when we take Daniel 11:21-45 as a parallel passage, we get even more details and a more complete timeline of the conflict. In both passages, the antichrist is the villain. In Ezekiel, he is called “Gog”, a man from a place called “Magog” (the Caucasus). He is the leader of the invasion and becomes the leader of the greater part of the whole world. (I am in doubt as to whether the USA will bend the knee to him or not. The more godly we are, the less likely it will be. But I’m sure you know how badly we flip-flop on this.)

Here are the events that are encompassed by this war, in chronological order:

- The first half of the tribulation (which includes the building of the temple)
- The Great Tribulation (initiated with the capture and desecration of the temple)
- God’s Wrath (which includes these events: Christ’s return, the resurrection, the rapture)
- Armageddon (the final battle and rebellion of the war and this age)



Why “Magog” Is Traditionally Identified with the Caucasus

1. Ancient Historical Consensus

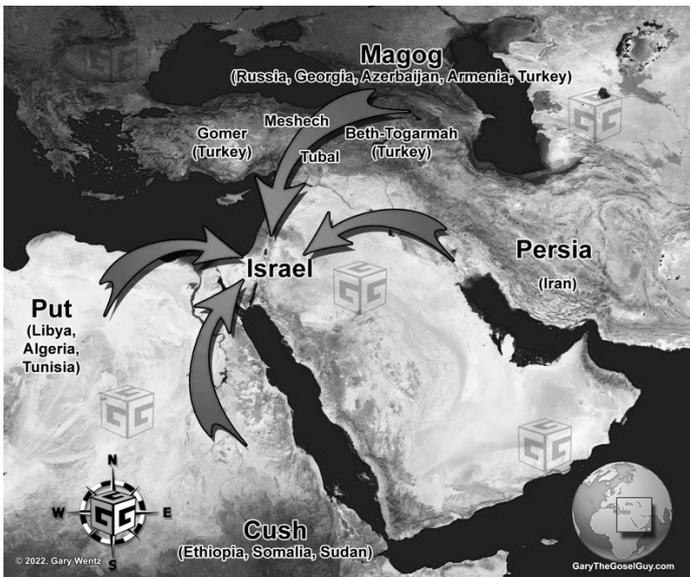
Flavius Josephus (1st century AD) explicitly identifies Magog with the Scythians, who lived north of the Black Sea. He notes that the Greeks referred to this region as “Magogia,” reinforcing the biblical term’s use for that area.

Jerome (4th century AD), in both his Latin Vulgate commentary and Letter 77, locates Magog beyond the Caucasus, near the Caspian Sea, and refers to them as

“Scythian nations... beyond the Caucasus and Lake Maeotis [Sea of Azov, north of the Black Sea].”

2. Biblical Geography and Tribal Names

Ezekiel 38 mentions adjoining tribes: Meshech, Tubal, Gomer, and Togarmah—tribal names consistently linked to ancient Anatolia and the Caucasus region in both scriptural and historical geography. The internal placement of Gog as “chief prince of Meshech and Tubal” makes little sense unless Magog itself is nearby, in the broader region to Israel’s north and northeast.



3. Classical and Archaeological Confirmation

Greek and Roman sources such as Herodotus and Pliny the Elder describe Scythian peoples living in the

Pontic–Caspian steppe and the Caucasus. Josephus, Pliny, and others confirm that “Magogia” referred to this corridor in their records.

4. Later Church and Medieval Reinforcement

Writers such as Jordanes and Procopius, as well as medieval mapmakers, refer to the “Gates of Alexander” as being located in the Caucasus. This became a consistent tradition throughout early and medieval Christianity, identifying the region north of Israel and east of the Black Sea (to the Caspian) as the biblical Magog.

Summary

Collectively:

- Josephus gives the earliest direct link between Magog and the Scythians.
- Jerome explicitly places Magog north of the Caucasus.
- The biblical tribal context supports the Caucasus–Anatolia corridor.
- Classical and medieval sources reinforce this geographic identification.

This long-standing consensus—drawn from biblical text, ancient literature, and historical geography—makes the Caucasus the most traditional and textually defensible

location for Magog, and by extension, Gog of Magog in Ezekiel's prophecy.

Gog is a man, not a place

Ezekiel could not be any clearer in describing Gog as a man (male human).

Ezekiel 38:¹ This is another message that came to me from the Lord: ²“Son of man, turn and **face Gog of the land of Magog**, the **prince who rules** over the nations of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against **him**. ³ Give **him** this message from the Sovereign Lord: Gog, **I am your enemy!** ⁴ I will turn **you** around and put hooks in **your jaws** to lead **you** out with **your** whole army—**your** horses and charioteers in full armor and a great horde armed with shields and swords. ⁵ Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya will join **you**, too, with all their weapons. ⁶ Gomer and all its armies will also join **you**, along with the armies of Beth-togarmah from the distant north, and many others. (NLT)

Anyone who says Gog is anything but a man is ignoring the plain language of the text.

Gog is Antichrist

There are too many direct links between Gog in Ezekiel and the Antichrist—both in Daniel 11 and in other passages—to ignore. Likewise, the parallels between Ezekiel 38–39 and Daniel 11 are too strong to place the timing anywhere else in history.

Ezekiel 38:⁷ “Get ready; be prepared! Keep all the armies around you mobilized, and take command of them. ⁸ A long time from now you will be called into action. In the distant future you will swoop down on the land of Israel, which **will be enjoying peace** after recovering from war and **after its people have returned from many lands** to the mountains of Israel. ⁹ You and all your allies—a vast and awesome army—will roll down on them like a storm and cover the land like a cloud. (NLT)

Ezekiel 38:¹⁸ But this is what the Sovereign Lord says: When Gog invades the land of Israel, **my fury will boil over!** ¹⁹ **In my jealousy and blazing anger**, I promise a mighty shaking in the land of Israel on that day. ²⁰ **All living things**—the fish in the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, the small animals that scurry along the ground, and all the people on earth—**will quake in terror at my presence. Mountains will be thrown down; cliffs will crumble; walls will fall to the earth.** ²¹ I will summon the sword against you on all the hills of Israel, says the Sovereign Lord. **Your men will turn their swords against each other.** ²² I will punish you and your armies with disease and bloodshed; I will send torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur! ²³ In this way, I will show my greatness and holiness, and I will make myself known to all the nations of the world. Then they will know that I am the Lord. (NLT)

2 Thessalonians 2:⁸ Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but **the Lord Jesus will slay him** with the

breath of his mouth and destroy him **by the splendor of his coming**. (NLT)

Ezekiel 39:7 “In this way, I will make known my holy name among my people of Israel. **I will not let anyone bring shame on it**. And the nations, too, will know that I am the Lord, the Holy One of Israel. (NLT)

Timing:

- There is no other time when Israel has returned from **many** lands.
(Ezekiel 38:8, 11-12)
- Israel is **at peace** before the invasion. This is a very rare condition.
(Ezekiel 38:14)
- During God’s wrath and Jesus’ return
(Ezekiel 38:18-20, 2 Thessalonians 2:8)
- After Gog’s invasion, Jesus will not allow His name to be shamed. If antichrist comes later, as some say, this is in conflict.
(Ezekiel 39:7)
- In the Olivet Discourse, Jesus connects the invasion with the Abomination that Causes Desolation.
(Matthew 24:15, Daniel 11:31)

Connection:

- Both are from the North
(Ezekiel 38:15, 39:2, Daniel 11:28)

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- “Are you the one I was talking about long ago”
This implies connection to the antichrist.
(Ezekiel 38:17)
- Gog and antichrist are killed by Christ after His return
(Ezekiel 38:21-22, 39:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:8, Revelation 19:19-21)
- How can Gog invade first and then antichrist when Ezekiel says that after the Gog invasion God will not allow anyone to bring shame on His name? Antichrist always tries to bring shame on the name of Jesus. (Ezekiel 39:7)

When we take the whole revelation of scripture into account, we see that there was no other time for this to happen, from the beginning of time until now. It is impossible for antichrist and Gog to be different men. There are more connections and proofs, but this is sufficient for this study.

The Third Temple

You might be wondering how I was able to say so confidently that the 3rd temple will be built in 295 days. Well, it took me a minute to figure it out. But I did it on my own, without anyone telling me. Here’s how I figured this out.

I started with a few verses in Daniel that intrigued me. Here they are:

Daniel 7:²³ Then he said to me, “This fourth beast is the fourth world power that will rule the earth. It will be different from all the others. It will devour the whole world, trampling and crushing everything in its path. ²⁴ Its ten horns are ten kings who will rule that empire. Then another king will arise, different from the other ten, who will subdue three of them. ²⁵ He will defy the Most High and oppress the holy people of the Most High. He will try to change their sacred festivals and laws, and they will be placed under his control for a **time, times, and half a time**.”

This passage is about the antichrist (the fourth beast). “Time, times, and half a time” is just a cryptic way of saying 3½ years (1+2+½). It’s also used in Revelation 12:14. And the calendar used in biblical prophecy uses a 360-day year, with each month being 30 days (you can read more about this in another book of mine, called *The Broken Planet Model*). So the period in question here is **1,260 days**. $360 \times 3 = 1,080$. $360 \div 2 = 180$. $1,080 + 180 = 1,260$.

Daniel 8:¹³ Then I heard two holy ones talking to each other. One of them asked, “How long will the events of this vision last? How long will the rebellion that causes desecration stop the daily sacrifices? How long will the Temple and heaven’s army be trampled on?”

¹⁴ The other replied, “**It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the Temple will be made right again.**” (NLT) (This is repeated in the same chapter in verses 23-26.)

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In this one, we see an interesting question being asked and answered. “How long will the temple...be trampled on (defiled)?” is the important question here. The answer is clear: **2,300** days. Put that number aside for a minute.

Daniel 9:²⁶ “After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. ²⁷ The ruler will make a treaty with the people for **a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings.** And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a **sacrilegious object that causes desecration**, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him.” (NLT)

The ruler making a treaty for a period of one set of seven equals 7 prophetic years (2,520 days). That’s the total time of the tribulation. The Great Tribulation begins at the halfway point (1,260 days). The treaty he speaks of was most likely formed at the conference table in chapter 11, verse 27. This is why I say that the prophetic clock for the tribulation begins at that conference table moment. It is mentioned here in 9:27.

So, we take the 1,260-day mark and make it our starting point for all of our arithmetic we are about to set up. This is when the temple was defiled.

Daniel 12:¹¹ “From the time the daily sacrifice is stopped and the sacrilegious object that causes desecration is set up to be worshiped, there will be 1,290 days. ¹² And blessed are those who wait and remain until the end of the 1,335 days!” (NLT)

The 1,290 days is how long the object of desecration is left standing. The 1,335 is interesting. It is a point in time when those who wait until the end are blessed. (To me, the blessing would be glorification, which could arguably be when the “temple” is made right. I know that this would not refer to the building, but God is often mysterious. And saints are the new temple of the Holy Spirit. See 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, for example.)

Now we take the numbers and look at them with some easy logic.

1,260—the length of time for either the first or the second half of the Tribulation.

1,290—the time that the statue stands (not the time we’re looking for).

1,335 —the time when the people are blessed.

2,300—the time until the temple is “made right”.

$1,260 + 1,335 = 2,595$. This tells us the extent of the time that the temple is defiled, which tells us how long it takes before being made right. To find out the time that it

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was built, we just subtract 2,300 from 2,595, which is not difficult. $2,595 - 2,300 = 295$.

Here it is again with a better explanation: the tribulation starts on day 0 (at the conference table). 1,260 days later the temple is defiled (made wrong). That's when the statue that defiles is set up, which will stand for 1,290 days. 1,335 days later is outside the tribulation period but the temple is still there, and this marks the day of blessing. The blessing includes the time that the temple is made right (glorification of the saints?). So when was the temple construction completed? Between day 0 and day 1,260, obviously. The exact day is guessed by subtracting 2,300 from 2,595.

Like I said, it took some time to figure this out. But now that I have it, I'm sticking with it. What do you think? Does it make sense? It does to me.

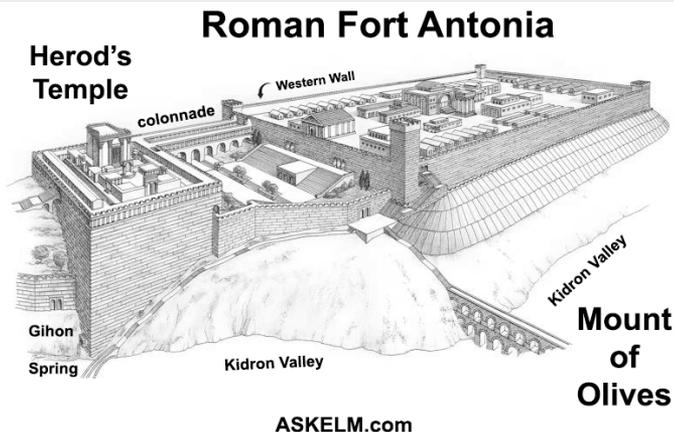
Before we leave the temple, I'll share one more thing about it.

Location

The 2nd temple site was not on what is now called "The Temple Mount". Shocking, I know. If the Jews were not so stubborn, and paid attention to Josephus, Jesus, and a Roman named Tacitus, they would know that the temple was actually located just south of the current structure misnamed "Temple Mount". In reality, that huge structure (that has many stones stacked upon each other—really big

ones at that) was the foundation of the first century Roman Fort Antonia.

But we know from Jesus that not one temple stone would remain on top of another. And we know from Josephus that if he had not known where the temple was before its destruction, he would have never known. This means not one trace remained of it. And Tacitus wrote that the spring (Gihon) was located under the temple. There is not now and never was a spring located under the foundation for Fort Antonia. Here's a picture to see what it looked like, courtesy of the late Dr. Ernest L. Martin.



How interesting is that? If you want to see this again, it's in the other book, *End Times Made Easy*. Or go to ASKELM.com.

The Abomination that Causes Desolation

As you just saw, at the 1,260-day point from the conference table meeting of Daniel 9:27, the temple is sacked and defiled by a statue and the antichrist himself. While the antichrist moves on to fight his war, the statue of him stands in the temple grounds for another 1,290 days.

The really interesting thing about this for me is that the mention of the Abomination is echoed by Jesus in His Olivet Discourse.

Matthew 24:¹⁵ “The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place.” (Reader, pay attention!) ¹⁶ “Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. ¹⁷ A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. ¹⁸ A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. ¹⁹ How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. ²⁰ And pray that your flight will not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. ²² In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God’s chosen ones. (NLT)

This is one of those important passages that helps to tie everything together. It’s like a marker that can be seen in Daniel and in the Gospels. It beautifully ties them together for us. And this statement of Jesus in verse 21 is where we

get the term “Great Tribulation” (the words used in the King James Bible). This is how we know when and how the Great Tribulation begins.

The Great Tribulation

If you’ve been a bit lost on this, the word “tribulation” means trouble. It is translated as “anguish” above. It means that for the Church and the Jews, persecution will be worse than ever—even worse than the holocaust of WWII. Some 6 million Jews were exterminated by Hitler’s evil SS. This will be far worse than that. And this time, the Christians will be in the number too. All of this has been foretold by our Savior in the Olivet Discourse. He said that if that time had not been cut short for the sake of His elect, no one would survive.

God’s Wrath, The Return, The Resurrection, The Rapture

Unfortunately, many teachers think and teach that the tribulation and/or Great Tribulation are God’s wrath. This is not true. “How do you know that?” you may ask. Easy. Jesus said so.

Matthew 24:²⁹ “Immediately **after** the anguish of those days,

the sun will be darkened,
the moon will give no light,
the stars will fall from the sky,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

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³⁰ And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven. (NLT)

When He says, “Immediately **after the anguish** of those days,” He means the tribulation. When He quotes the Old Testament prophets with the part about the sun, moon, stars, and powers, He is referring to His wrath. And then He shows how His wrath, second coming, the resurrection, and the rapture all happen at that time—after the tribulation. He says that “He will send out His angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather His chosen ones from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the **earth** and **heaven**.” And just like Paul and John told us, this all happens together on the same day: Return, resurrection, and rapture.

1 Corinthians 15:⁵¹ But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! ⁵² It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. ⁵³ For our dying bodies must be transformed

into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. (NLT)

Nothing about a pause of 7 years, 7 days, or even 7 minutes. But there's more.

John 6:³⁵ Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in Me will never be thirsty. ³⁶ But you haven't believed in Me even though you have seen Me. ³⁷ However, those the Father has given Me will come to Me, and I will never reject them. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent Me, not to do My own will. ³⁹ And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given Me, but that **I should raise them up at the last day.** ⁴⁰ For it is my Father's will that all who see His Son and believe in Him should have eternal life. **I will raise them up at the last day.**"

How this is doubted and confused by so many teachers dumbfounds me.

Armageddon

As already mentioned, Armageddon is a battle, not a war. It is the final battle of Ezekiel's War. It is called Armageddon, because the antichrist is camped out in the "Valley of Megiddo". The name **Armageddon** comes from the Hebrew **Har-Megiddo**, meaning "Hill of Megiddo," referring to the elevated site (**Tel Megiddo**) that overlooks

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the **Valley of Jezreel**, a historic battleground. John used this name in Revelation to signify the prophetic gathering place for the final global conflict. So the valley has two names. Officially, it's called Jezreel, but John called it Armageddon, referring to the hill that borders it. See Revelation 16:16 for its use. There's an image at the end of this chapter showing placement.

When we put together all of the teaching on this battle from the Bible, we get a pretty good picture of what will happen there. It's basically the final stand of Satan and mankind against Jesus. It would be comical that they think they can fight Him, but it's going to be really terrifying for those who assemble there. Antichrist and his entire army perish there. They kill each other, and are pelted by various means.

Ezekiel 38:²¹ I will summon the sword against you on all the hills of Israel, says the Sovereign Lord. Your men will *turn their swords against each other*.²² I will punish you and your armies with *disease and bloodshed*; I will send *torrential rain, hailstones, fire, and burning sulfur!*²³ In this way, I will show my greatness and holiness, and I will make myself known to all the nations of the world. Then they will know that I am the Lord. (NLT)

Tanks, aircraft, artillery, drones, RPGs, AK-47s, over 200 million men, blah, blah, blah...they might as well be children with Nerf Swords. Jesus destroys them with the words of His mouth. Then and only then does He set foot

on the Mount of Olives at Bethany, right where He ascended from.

Acts 1:⁷ He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday **he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!**” (NLT)

And more explicitly, read Zechariah:

Zechariah 14:³ Then the Lord will go out to fight against those nations, as he has fought in times past. ⁴ On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem. And the Mount of Olives will split apart, making a wide valley running from east to west. Half the mountain will move toward the north and half toward the south. ⁵ You will flee through this valley, for it will reach across to Azal. Yes, you will flee as you did from the earthquake in the days of King Uzziah of Judah. Then

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the Lord my God will come, and all His holy ones with him. (NLT)

And this is when He begins to reign. All that is left is to have His Millennial Temple built and to bring His people home to live under His loving care.

Isaiah 60:¹ “Arise, Jerusalem! Let your light shine for all to see.

For the glory of the Lord rises to shine on you.

² Darkness as black as night covers all the nations of the earth,

but the glory of the Lord rises and appears over you.

³ All nations will come to your light;

mighty kings will come to see your radiance.

⁴ “Look and see, for everyone is coming home!

Your sons are coming from distant lands;

your little daughters will be carried home.

⁵ Your eyes will shine,

and your heart will thrill with joy,

for merchants from around the world will come to you.

They will bring you the wealth of many lands.

⁶ Vast caravans of camels will converge on you,

the camels of Midian and Ephah.

The people of Sheba will bring gold and frankincense

and will come worshiping the Lord.

⁷ The flocks of Kedar will be given to you,

and the rams of Nebaioth will be brought for my altars.

I will accept their offerings,
and I will make my Temple glorious.

⁸“And what do I see flying like clouds to Israel,
like doves to their nests?

⁹They are ships from the ends of the earth,
from lands that trust in me,
led by the great ships of Tarshish.

They are bringing the people of Israel home from far away,
carrying their silver and gold.

They will honor the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has filled you with splendor.

¹⁰“Foreigners will come to rebuild your towns,
and their kings will serve you.

For though I have destroyed you in my anger,
I will now have mercy on you through my grace.

¹¹Your gates will stay open day and night
to receive the wealth of many lands.

The kings of the world will be led as captives
in a victory procession.

¹²For the nations that refuse to serve you
will be destroyed.

¹³“The glory of Lebanon will be yours—
the forests of cypress, fir, and pine—
to beautify my sanctuary.

My Temple will be glorious!

¹⁴The descendants of your tormentors

Sheep To Nations

will come and bow before you.

Those who despised you

will kiss your feet.

They will call you the City of the Lord,
and Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

¹⁵“Though you were once despised and hated,

with no one traveling through you,

I will make you beautiful forever,

a joy to all generations.

¹⁶ Powerful kings and mighty nations

will satisfy your every need,

as though you were a child

nursing at the breast of a queen.

You will know at last that I, the Lord,

am your Savior and your Redeemer,

the Mighty One of Israel.

¹⁷ I will exchange your bronze for gold,

your iron for silver,

your wood for bronze,

and your stones for iron.

I will make peace your leader

and righteousness your ruler.

¹⁸ Violence will disappear from your land;

the desolation and destruction of war will end.

Salvation will surround you like city walls,

and praise will be on the lips of all who enter there.

¹⁹“No longer will you need the sun to shine by day,

nor the moon to give its light by night,

for the Lord your God will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

²⁰ Your sun will never set;
your moon will not go down.

For the Lord will be your everlasting light.

Your days of mourning will come to an end.

²¹ All your people will be righteous.

They will possess their land forever,
for I will plant them there with my own hands
in order to bring myself glory.

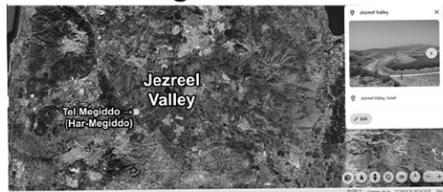
²² The smallest family will become a thousand people,
and the tiniest group will become a mighty nation.
At the right time, I, the Lord, will make it happen.”

Be blessed. Do not fear. God’s got this.

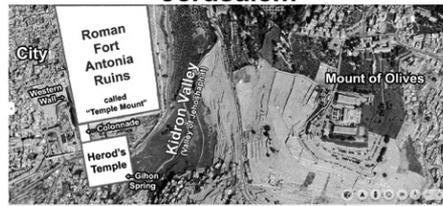
ISRAEL



— Armageddon Site —



— Jerusalem —



A Quick Timeline Overview

That was a lot to go over, so I think it might help to have a simpler overview or summary of the historic timeline. Since there are two equal halves of the tribulation with each half having 1,260 days, the count will restart for the beginning of the Great Tribulation. First will be the early tribulation followed by the Great Tribulation. So expect the count to restart at zero after the first 1,260 days.

Day 0 (tribulation): The Invasion of Israel

The count begins when the antichrist and the Israeli leader are sitting at a conference table, trying to deceive each other during the first Gog invasion. We find this event in two places in Daniel's prophecy. Daniel 11, which is parallel to Ezekiel 38 & 39 and Daniel 9.

Daniel 11:²⁷ Seeking nothing but each other's harm, these kings will plot against each other at the conference table, attempting to deceive each other. But it will make no difference, for the end will come at the appointed time.

Daniel 9:^{26b} "The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end. ²⁷ The ruler will make a treaty with the people for a period of one set of seven, but after half this time, he will put an end to the sacrifices and offerings. And as a climax to all his terrible deeds, he will set up a sacrilegious object that causes desecration, until the fate decreed for this defiler is finally poured out on him." (NLT)

It is because of Daniel 9 that we say that the tribulation will be a time of 7 years. This only begins when Israel is at peace, and only by specific nations. (Ezekiel 38:5, 8) These invading nations include the land that Gog rules, called “Magog” by Ezekiel (most likely Turkey, but could also be any of these other nations in the Caucasus: Russia, Georgia, Armenia, or Azerbaijan, joined by Iran (Persia), Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, as a region, called **Cush**, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, as a region, called **Put**. (Ezekiel 38:5)

If those nations are not involved, it is not the beginning of the 7-year Tribulation. And as covered earlier, this event is touched on by Jesus in the Olivet Discourse.

Day 295: The Temple is Completed

As already explained, the temple will be built after this conference table meeting. Earlier, you saw how this is determined with the numbers provided by Daniel. This is a physical temple building that antichrist enters and defiles.

I believe that as soon as the temple construction is completed antichrist will again return to try to capture it. But He is thwarted by a powerful nation with a mighty navy. If the USA is in prophecy, this might be one place.

Daniel 11:²⁹ “Then at the appointed time he will once again invade the south, but this time the result will be different. ³⁰ For warships from western coastlands will scare him off, and he will withdraw and return home. But

he will vent his anger against the people of the holy covenant and reward those who forsake the covenant.”

And if WWIII is to begin in these times, this might be the very time, since after this the warships are no longer a problem for the antichrist. My guess is that only WWIII could keep this mighty navy busy enough for him to sneak back in when they are either preoccupied elsewhere or their power is diminished. In addition to this, it is actually another many days (965, to be exact) before he can actually sack the temple in a second successful invasion. This tells me that he is really busy as well in the time between his second attempt and his successful second invasion.

And this takes us up to the 1,260-day mark, when the Great Tribulation begins. Antichrist’s second invasion.

Day 1,260: Great Tribulation Begins

Daniel 11:³¹ “His army will take over the Temple fortress, pollute the sanctuary, put a stop to the daily sacrifices, and set up the sacrilegious object that causes desecration. ³² He will flatter and win over those who have violated the covenant. But the people who know their God will be strong and will resist him.”

Here we see the beginning of the worse time of suffering on Earth (especially for Jews and Christians—people of the holy covenant that antichrist hates so much). And if these days were not cut short by God, then no one would survive. It is marked by this second invasion, as well

as the setting up of a statue, called the Abomination (or Sacrilegious Object) that Causes Desolation (or Desecration). But for the sake of God’s “chosen ones” (either saints or sheep), they will be cut short.

Matthew 24:¹⁵ “The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place.” (Reader, pay attention!) ¹⁶ “Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. ¹⁷ A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. ¹⁸ A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. ¹⁹ How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. ²⁰ And pray that your flight will not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again. ²² In fact, unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive. But it will be shortened for the sake of God’s chosen ones. (NLT)

We will now **reset the clock** to zero, showing the timing from this point on in a simpler manner, since it’s referenced from here on out by Daniel.

Day 0 (great trib): Satan Cast Down

Another important aspect of this pivotal day is that this is when Satan and his fallen angels are finally kicked out of the spirit realm and not allowed to return. We look at Revelation 12 for this detail.

Sheep To Nations

Revelation 12:⁷ Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. ⁸ And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. ⁹ This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.

¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens,

“It has come at last—
salvation and power
and the Kingdom of our God,
and the authority of his Christ.

For the accuser of our brothers and sisters
has been thrown down to earth—
the one who accuses them
before our God day and night.

¹¹ **And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb**
and by **their testimony**.

And they did not love their lives so much
that they were afraid to die.

¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens!

And you who live in the heavens, rejoice!
But terror will come on the earth and the sea,
for **the devil has come down to you in great anger,**
knowing that he has little time.” (NLT)

We can glean a few points of interest from this important event:

1. It could not have happened at any other time before the time of Christ's first advent. This is shown by Satan being called "the accuser of our brothers". (verse 10)
2. Terror will come on the earth and sea when this happens, since the devil knows that he has little time left. (verse 12)
3. This makes the Great Tribulation period Satan's wrath (v.12), not God's wrath. And this is reinforced by Jesus in the Olivet Discourse, where He says that after the Tribulation, acts of **His wrath** will commence. (Matthew 24:29-31, below)

So this is the beginning of Satan's wrath and is not associated with God's wrath (as many teachers falsely proclaim).

Day 1,260: End of Great Tribulation

Not only is this the end of the Great Tribulation, it is the beginning of **God's wrath**.

Matthew 24:²⁹ "Immediately after the anguish of those days, the sun will be darkened, the moon will give no light, the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

³⁰ And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep

Sheep To Nations

mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with the mighty blast of a trumpet, and they will gather his **chosen ones** from all over the world—from the farthest ends of the earth and heaven.” (NLT)

Notice how Jesus cleanly and subtly associates the timing of His wrath with the tribulation. “Immediately **after** the tribulation (anguish)...” and then goes right into His acts of wrath as discussed in many early prophets. This is neatly done by quoting scriptures that refer to The Day of the Lord, which begins with His wrath. (See Isaiah 24:23, Amos 5:18, Zephaniah 1:4-16, and Zechariah 14:6-7. And Peter echoes it in Acts 2:20 as well.)

This is why we cannot biblically associate the tribulation with God’s wrath.

Day 1,290: The Abomination Falls

1,290 days after the Great Tribulation begins, according to Daniel, the Abominable statue no longer stands. This takes place 30 days after the Great Tribulation is over.

Daniel 12:¹¹ “From the time the daily sacrifice is stopped and the sacrilegious object that causes desecration is set up to be worshiped, there will be 1,290 days.”

What knocks it down? For this, let's turn to
Zechariah 14:

¹ Watch, for the **day of the Lord** is coming when your possessions will be plundered right in front of you! ² I will gather **all the nations** to fight against Jerusalem. The city will be taken, the houses looted, and the women raped. Half the population will be taken into captivity, and the rest will be left among the ruins of the city. (NLT)

See how he says, “the day of the Lord” (v. 1)?

Well, there are many things that happen in the era called the Day of the Lord. They are:

- His Wrath
- His Return
- His Glorification of the Saints
- His Millennial Rule
- His Separation of the Sheep and the Goats
- His Final Judgment

That's a solid 1,000 years for this era called a “day”. But that's alright. Peter told us that with the Lord, a day is as a thousand years (2 Peter 3:8). It fits. But it also means that we need to be careful about how we look at this very important time. For one thing, we don't take all references to a “day” as a literal 24 hour period. Zechariah 14 is one of those passages. When he uses the word “day” don't think that he is talking about a particular date, or sequence of days.

Sheep To Nations

Let's move on to Zechariah 14:2. The Lord gathers all the nations to fight against Israel. Interesting. This means that both the devil and God are working the events to happen that antichrist is involved in. This is going to be what is called "Armageddon" in the war we call Ezekiel's War. It's the final battle of that war. But that will be the final event before the Millennium begins. I'm still trying to get to the 1,290th day. But you can see how Zechariah 14 is not exactly a strict, chronological account.

Zechariah 14:³ Then the Lord will go out to fight against those nations, as He has fought in times past. ⁴ On that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem. And the Mount of Olives will split apart, making a wide valley running from east to west. Half the mountain will move toward the north and half toward the south. ⁵ You will flee through this valley, for it will reach across to Azal. Yes, you will flee as you did from the earthquake in the days of King Uzziah of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all His holy ones with him. (NLT)

Okay, when Zechariah says "on that day" in verse 4, we need to understand that he is not speaking of the same calendar day that the other things he is talking about happen. He just means in that time (The Day of the Lord). If we do not allow this interpretation, then the End Times timeline unravels pretty quickly. And it doesn't matter whose timeline you use. But even this superior timeline depends on this interpretation. How do we know this?

Look at the events that Zechariah unfolds:

- There is an invasion of all the nations, Armageddon
- Jerusalem falls
- Plunder when houses are looted, women raped
- Half the population is taken hostage or captive
- The other half remains (dead or alive) in the ruins
- The Lord goes out to fight for Israel
- He sets foot on the Mount of Olives
- The mount is split apart forming a valley (east/west)
- People will flee through the newly made valley
- The fleeing is likened to Uzziah's earthquake
- All of the Lord's holy ones will be with Him

Here's the thing. Those events simply cannot be consecutive or chronological. To say so would be illogical in light of other verses and even within this passage.

And so this brings us to the 1,290th day.

On day 1,290 from the Abomination that Causes Desolation, the statue no longer will stand. Another event in this era ("day") is the formation of a new valley.

Now, when God forms valleys, He usually uses natural forces to do so. I mean, He seems to like using things that He has made that operate within the laws established for those physical things. And so the best explanation for the valley's formation is a natural event, not necessarily the feet of Jesus touching down on the dirt.

Sheep To Nations

So that brings us to the great earthquake that happens during this era (the Day of the Lord). Many prophets mention this. Zechariah doesn't. He just says that the people run through the valley to escape, but he likens it to an event involving an earlier quake. And he tells us that it is the Mount of Olives that is cracked wide open.

Here are some references for this quake:

- **Ezekiel 38:**¹⁹ In my jealousy and blazing anger, I promise a **mighty shaking** in the land of Israel on that day.
- **Revelation 16:**¹⁸ Then the thunder crashed and rolled, and lightning flashed. And a great **earthquake** struck—the worst since people were placed on the earth. (This is the same one that splits Jerusalem, called “Babylon”, into three parts.)
- **Isaiah 29:**⁶ I, the Lord of Heaven's Armies, will act for you with thunder and **earthquake** and great noise, with whirlwind and storm and consuming fire.

And what do you think would happen to the statue of antichrist in the temple when this huge earthquake hits? It falls down. On the 1,290th day.

I used to think that the valley through the Mount of Olives would happen as a result of Jesus touching down on it, but I no longer see it that way. This more naturalistic view of a quake being the reason makes more sense to me.

I also see the quake as being what knocks the statue over now as well.

Day 1,335: A Blessing for Those Who Wait

Daniel 12:¹² “And blessed are those who wait and remain until the end of the 1,335 days!”

I believe this to be none other than the glorification of the saints. After all, that would be the greatest blessing in the Bible, yes? And we can tell from other verses that the resurrection and rapture of the saints both occur along with the return of Jesus. See 1 Thessalonians 14:13-18 and Matthew 24:29-31 for two of the clearest accounts.

And when we do a little easy arithmetic, we can realize that this day is 75 days after the end of the Great Tribulation. $1335 - 1260 = 75$. And looking at the locusts of God’s wrath (Revelation 9), we see that they have power to torture people for 150 days (5 months). That puts the resurrection and rapture right in the middle of God’s wrath. By the way, the locust attack is the only event of all of the events of His wrath that has a time given for its duration. So this is when I believe that the rapture happens—mid wrath. And I’ll put this up against anyone else’s timeline.

Day 1410-ish: The Return of the Lord

I cannot say with certainty what day exactly or what hour the Lord will set foot on the Mount of Olives. And this is in line with the prophecy of Jesus that says as much in His Olivet Discourse.

Sheep To Nations

Matthew 24:³⁶ “However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.” (NLT)

Not all manuscripts agree that He included Himself in not knowing. But whether He did or not when He said that, I’m sure that He knows now. But one thing is certain, none of us know the day or hour when He will set foot on the ground at Bethany. But I believe it will be the very last event in these End Times of this age. It just makes the most sense to me.

Now, even though we cannot know the very date or time of day, Paul tells us that we will know approximately when these things will happen. And indeed, I have been able to figure it out, so it must be possible. Read how Paul puts it in his letter to those in Thessalonica:

1 Thessalonians 5:¹ Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we don’t really need to write you. ² For you know quite well that the day of the Lord’s return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. ³ When people are saying, “Everything is peaceful and secure,” then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a pregnant woman’s labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.

⁴ But you aren’t in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won’t be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don’t belong to darkness and

night. ⁶ So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. ⁷ Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. ⁸ But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.

⁹ For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out His anger on us. ¹⁰ Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when He returns, we can live with Him forever. ¹¹ So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. (NLT)

So Paul lets us know that those who are paying attention to the Lord and His Word will know pretty closely when all these things will come about. I mean, if I can figure it out, anyone should be able to.

Jesus echoed this sentiment when told the parable of the mean servant, who was a partier and abuser.

Matthew 24:⁴⁵ “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. ⁴⁶ If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. ⁴⁷ I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. ⁴⁸ But what if the servant is evil and thinks, ‘My master won’t be back for a while,’ ⁴⁹ and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? ⁵⁰ The master will return unannounced and **unexpected**, ⁵¹ and he will cut the servant

Sheep To Nations

to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (NLT)

So both Paul and Jesus let us know who will know when the Lord returns, just not the exact hour or day.

I've seen where many teachers think that because Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:9 "For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out His anger on us" we will be raptured before His wrath (anger). But when taken in context of the big picture, we see that he is just referring to God's eternal wrath, not the temporary wrath of the last days. And this is also supported by Paul's next sentence: "Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead **or alive when He returns**, we can live with Him forever." This shows that he was talking about salvation into sainthood, not just a rapture from the tribulation. And indeed, he mentions those who are still alive when Christ returns. That makes it clear that he is not showing a prewrath or pretribulation rapture.

The best, most biblical timing of the rapture is mid-**wrath** (which is *after* the Great Tribulation), not any of the others. But this study is not about arguing the various ideas on the rapture. I have given you my interpretation and my biblical reasoning. You can do with it as you like.

Now that you've seen the historic premillennial timeline I follow, chapter two will present a radical way of seeing who will be in the Millennium—and who will not. It's nothing like what you've likely heard from any teacher

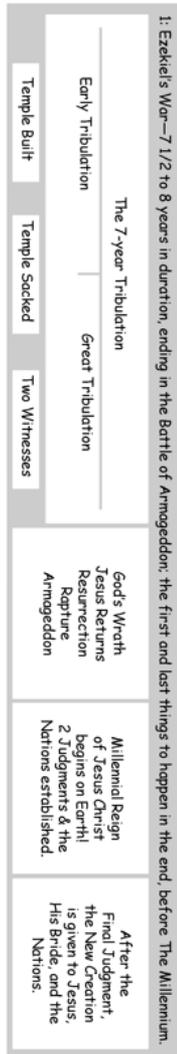
I know. Strap in your seatbelt. This is going to be a wild ride.

Historic Premillennial Timeline

Sorry for the small print. Got a magnifier?



GaryTheGospelGuy.com End Times Timeline (simplified, not to scale)



- 1: Ezekiel's War — Begins with invasion of Israel; lasts until Jesus destroys Antichrist at the Battle of Armageddon.
- 2: The Tribulation — Allowed to last exactly 2,520 days, or 7 years, it has two equal halves (equal in time only).
- 3: 3rd Temple Built—When Israel is overrun by Antichrist, the leaders meet at a table. About 295 days later, the temple is built and ready for use.
- 4: The Great Tribulation — After the first 1,260 days of the Tribulation are up, the temple is sacked and an Object That Causes Desolation is put up.
- 5: The Wrath of God — When Satan is done with His temper tantrum (the Great Tribulation), God takes His turn, but only for 5 months or so.
- 6: The Return of Christ — Since Jesus is the One Who metes out God's Wrath and judgment, it is He Who is here during His wrath.
- 7: The Resurrection — At the Return of Jesus, while He is in the air, all of His faithful followers who already died prior to that moment will join Him.
- 8: The Rapture — Immediately following the resurrection of the dead in Christ, those who still live and are in Christ will be "caught up" to meet Him.
- 9: Armageddon — This is the final battle of Ezekiel's War; the final showdown between Antichrist and Jesus. (Jesus wins easily.)
- 10: The Millennium — After all of that unpleasantness, Jesus takes His throne in Jerusalem and begins to rule the Nations (normal people, not saints)
- 11: The Judgment — There are actually 2 judgments; one at the start, and one at the end of the Millennium. The final judgment is final and eternal.
- 12: The New Creation — This Earth and Heavens (the Physical and Spiritual Realms) will be destroyed and replaced with something bigger and better.

Chapter 1 Discussion and Reflection

Questions:

1. What Return of Christ doctrine is the author most closely aligned with?
 - Premillennial
 - Postmillennial
 - Amillennial
2. What Rapture doctrine does the author agree with?
 - Pretribulation
 - Midtribulation
 - Prewrath
 - Posttribulation
 - No Rapture
3. What are the two very different Premillennial doctrines called?

Answers:

1. Premillennial—Jesus returns before the millennium.
2. Posttribulation—The rapture occurs mid-way through God’s wrath, which is after the tribulation.
3. Dispensational and Historic—The author most closely follows the Historic view (the oldest view).

Reflection: Why is eisegesis more dangerous than exegesis? (The author’s method is plain-meaning exegesis.)

Eisegesis—adding to, or changing, the text.

Exegesis—taking the text exactly as given.

Note: Literalism is not plain-meaning, but plain-meaning can be literal (in addition to many other methods).

Chapter 2: Sheep and Nations

MILLENNIAL JUDGMENT

WHEN JESUS RETURNS



APOCALYPSE SURVIVORS
(NOT SAINTS, NEVER GLORIFIED)



We're going to begin this study where I always start when discussing the End Times: the Olivet Discourse. That is because the Olivet Discourse is the backbone of eschatology (the study of the last things). I'm going to quote and comment on this very misunderstood passage of scripture. I'll show you how I came to the conclusions I have and then you can decide what you want to do with them. Fair enough? And remember, the doctrine being

shared is called “*Sheep to Nations*”. Rather going through Matthew 24 and the other chapters of this teaching in Mark and Luke, I’ll go straight to the end of the Olivet Discourse—the separation of the sheep and goats. We’ve already seen how the timeline is laid out by now, so I’ll not go over it again.

Let’s begin.

The Olivet Discourse

Matthew 25: ³¹ When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will place the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.

³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you visited Me.’

³⁷ Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger

and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹ When did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?’

⁴⁰ And the King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.’

⁴¹ Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, I was naked and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after Me.’

⁴⁴ And they too will reply, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’

⁴⁵ Then the King will answer, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me.’

⁴⁶ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

What you just read (an excerpt from the Olivet Discourse) is a teaching that Jesus gave to His four closest friends and apostles: James, John, Peter, and Andrew (Mark 13:3). He gave them this teaching while they were on the Mount of Olives, during the week before His death on the cross. That’s why it’s called the **Olivet** (from the Mount of

Sheep To Nations

Olives) **Discourse** (teaching). As mentioned in the introduction, the following passages are what make up this important message: Matthew 24-25; Mark 13; and Luke 21. It is foundational to understanding the End Times. Therefore, it must be correctly understood. But what you just read is only in Matthew 25.

It is not allegory or a parable; it's what will happen.

Timing

While the timing of things is not always important in studying the Bible, it is very important in understanding the Last Days. And it becomes extremely important in this study. So let's look at the clues given to see when this separation of the sheep and goats happens.

Our greatest clue is in the first sentence of the passage: "*When the Son of Man comes in His glory...*".

Why don't we take our Lord at His word, and say that He meant what He said and said what He meant? I know that I do. So this lets us know that we are looking at an event that is one of the first things He accomplishes upon His glorious return. There are other important events that happen prior to this, and we just saw some in the prior chapter, but we can see that this is early in the Millennium. It's one of His first official acts as the new King of Earth.

But it's important that we look at something that happened just prior to this judgment: the glorification of the

saints. For this teaching, we need to sidestep over to Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 4:¹³ And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with Him the believers who have died.

¹⁵ We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet Him ahead of those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. ¹⁷ Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ So encourage each other with these words. (NLT)

This short passage tells us of the resurrection and rapture of the saints of Christ—an important event in our study. (If you are caught up in the teaching that the rapture happens prior to the tribulation, you will be confused. That is a false notion that does not square with the Bible. I cover this extensively in *End Times Made Easy* and only mention it briefly in the previous chapter in this work.)

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Notice how Paul shows both the resurrection and the rapture, which are collectively the glorification of the saints, happening at the same time. There is no indication of these being separated by any length of time at all. And they clearly happen when Jesus is still in the air during His return (the rapture is like rushing out from the house to meet Him at the gate). And if we take another quick sidestep into Paul's first letter to Corinth, we see what glorification actually looks like.

1 Corinthians 15:²¹ So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. ²² Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. ²³ But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then *all* who belong to Christ will be raised *when he comes back*. ²⁴ After that the end will come, when He will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. ²⁵ For Christ must reign until He humbles all His enemies beneath His feet. (NLT)

Notice that Paul says that ALL who belong to Christ will be raised WHEN HE COMES BACK. This notion destroys (along with many other passages) the pretribulational rapture idea. Notice, too, that this immediately precedes the assumption of His throne over Earth. The "end" that Paul is referring to is not the end of the world, but the end of the current age (man's rule over

Earth). And this age ends when Jesus returns to reign the world from Jerusalem, Israel. The Millennium is the next age.

But what is glorification?

1 Corinthians 15:³⁵ But someone may ask, “How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?”³⁶ What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn’t grow into a plant unless it dies first.³⁷ And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting.³⁸ Then God gives it the new body He wants it to have. A different plant grows from each kind of seed.³⁹ Similarly there are different kinds of flesh—one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

⁴⁰ There are also bodies in the heavens and bodies on the earth. The glory of the heavenly bodies is different from the glory of the earthly bodies.⁴¹ The sun has one kind of glory, while the moon and stars each have another kind. And even the stars differ from each other in their glory.

⁴² It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever.⁴³ Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength.⁴⁴ They are buried as natural human bodies, but

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they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies.

⁴⁵ The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit. ⁴⁶ What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later. ⁴⁷ Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven. ⁴⁸ Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man. ⁴⁹ Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man.

⁵⁰ What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever.

⁵¹ But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! ⁵² It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. ⁵³ For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

⁵⁴ Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.

⁵⁵ O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶ For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. ⁵⁷ But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. (NLT)

All of that is to show that saints are glorified before the next age (the Millennium) begins. And glorification is a state of replacing the physical with the spiritual. It’s replacing the mortal with immortality. It is making people sinless and invincible (bodies that will never die). I call it going from Humanity 1.0 to Humanity 2.0, an upgrade from the Manufacturer or Developer of our lives.

Why is this important? Because the “sheep” in Matthew 25 are not glorified saints. They do not *inherit* (own) their lives—they only live on through the consumption of the Water and Fruit of Life. How do we know this? Because Jesus said that there is no judgment for those who believe in Him (John 3:18). And the timing shows that the saints are all established by then. And since sainthood is given by faith, once Jesus is here faith is no longer available (for everyone will see Him and faith will have lost its power).

John 3:18 “There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in

him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son." (NLT)

This separation of the sheep from the goats is the first judgment of the Millennium.

Who Are The Sheep?

So now we can see, with Paul's help, that the sheep are not saints. We can also see from the timing given by Jesus that this is not at the end of the Millennium, but at the beginning. So who are they? The answer is simple and comes from the very passage that we opened with here.

Matthew 25:32 "All the **nations** will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." (NLT)

We know that this is *after* the Lord has taken His seat on the throne of Earth in Jerusalem. We also know from many passages in scripture that the previous seven-and-a-half years have seen the tribulation and God's wrath (two distinct but sequential events). So, it's very easy to see that these sheep and goats are survivors of the apocalyptic events that just preceded this judgment (see Matthew 24). These are not glorified people, but unglorified. And since glorification comes through faith, these are not believers—not one of them, whether a sheep or a goat. These, then, are mortal humans—the few survivors of the horrific times that just ended for them. "Throughout the earth the story is the

same—only a remnant is left, like the stray olives left on the tree or the few grapes left on the vine after harvest.” (Isaiah 24:13, NLT)

They are called “The Nations”. The word for nations is the same as we use now—groups of people with a shared heritage and land. They were in the nations before being summoned to the judgment and they will continue to live as nations after it. The difference is that by then they will have been hand-picked by Christ to stay in His kingdom on Earth. They will be ruled by Jesus and His saints (Revelation 20).

Justification

And how does He choose who stays and who goes? It’s right there in the text. Whoever is kind to His brothers and sisters (saints) will be able to stay on Earth. Whoever is not kind to His brothers and sisters (saints) is sent away to eternal punishment. They don’t go to hell, they go directly to the Lake of Fire (or Burning Sulfur). And although hell is not forever (Revelation 20:14), the Lake of Fire *is* (Revelation 20:10). That makes the stakes as high as possible.

So these people are not judged by their faith, they are judged by their behavior. This is another very clear indication that these are not saints. Why? Because saints are saved by faith and repentance, not by their behavior (John 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:28; Galatians 2:16; John 3:16; Romans 10:9; etc.).

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Not convinced? Let's read it again.

Matthew 25:³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and **you gave Me something to eat**, I was thirsty and **you gave Me something to drink**, I was a stranger and **you took Me in**, ³⁶ I was naked and **you clothed Me**, I was sick and **you looked after Me**, I was in prison and **you visited Me.**'

That has nothing to do with faith. It's all about behavior. And again, the saints have already been established by then. I see Him sitting on His throne and pointing with His thumb over his shoulder at the saints standing behind Him when He says this, "Whatever you did for these, my brothers and sisters."

And the same measure is used for those who are sent to eternal damnation—their behavior. Unfortunately for them, if they had displayed faith in Him then they would not be standing there for judgment (despite their bad behavior). They would be standing behind Him as saints, saved by faith. (I don't know if the saints are actually standing there or not, I just use that as an illustration to help you see it.)

Are you seeing how this works out? If you aren't there yet, that's okay. I have more to share that will really drive this home for you. After all, if it's the truth and is

found in the Bible, then it will (usually) be in more than one place and have much support. And it does.

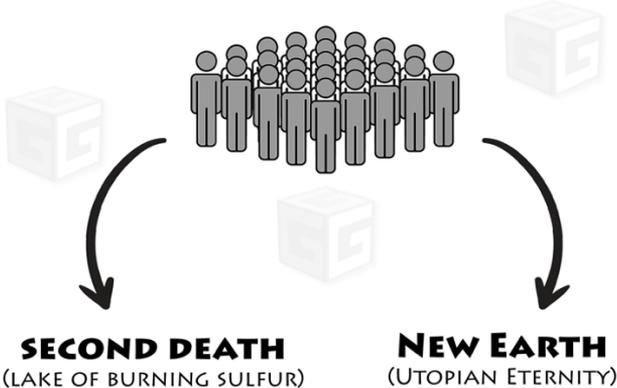
For now, the takeaway is that the separation of the sheep and goats is based on their behavior, not faith, and they are not saints. And then the sheep get to stay while the goats have got to go.

Next, we move on to some “loose ends” found in the scriptures that touch on this theme and actually reinforce the notion I have laid out for you. In the process, you might get a better picture of some of these sideline issues as well.

FINAL JUDGMENT

AFTER THE MILLENNIUM

EVERYONE IN HELL IS RESURRECTED FOR JUDGMENT.
THE RESULT IS EITHER:



ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL!

What Did I Do Here?

Before we move on, I want to ask you to stop and think this through with me.

What exactly did I just do here?

Did I invent some new theology? Did I redefine words? Twist meanings? Force a passage to say something it doesn't?

No. Not at all.

All I did was take the passage exactly as it was given. I didn't change anything. I didn't overlay a system or bend it to fit a framework, doctrinal position, or creed. I just read it—and believed it. Not as allegory or parable, but as factual history that is yet to come.

And not just that passage. I looked at the full timeline. I didn't isolate Matthew 25 and build a theory around it. I followed the flow of Scripture—from Jesus to Paul, from the prophets to Revelation. I let the Bible interpret itself.

And here's what becomes obvious: by the time Jesus separates the sheep and the goats, the saints have already been glorified. That's not speculation—that's just following the order the Bible gives. So the people being judged in this scene can't be the saints. It's not possible. Look again at chapter 24, just before this. He already gathered His "elect" from both heaven and Earth.

That's not theological gymnastics. That's just plain, immovable logic. So I followed it. I didn't argue with the text. I let the text have the final word.

And here's something else worth pointing out:

Jesus gave this teaching—the separation of the sheep and the goats—as the final section of His Olivet Discourse. That wasn't random. The Olivet Discourse is the most complete end-times timeline we have in the whole Bible. Yes, He gave a couple of parables in chapter 25—but this section isn't one of them. He presents it as future fact—what He will actually do.

That matters.

No backflips. No borrowed terms from theological echo chambers. No clever system or reputation or career to protect. Just the straightforward meaning of what Jesus said.

And honestly? That's the shocking part. Not that this view is radical—but that so few, if any, have ever taught it this way. For two thousand years, people have tried to force these words into their systems, wishes, and paradigms. I let the systems fall away and followed the Scripture instead.

So if this feels new, ask yourself: is it really new? Or have we just missed what's been sitting in plain sight? Ask yourself, "Have I been following a teaching that makes no sense? Is that possible?"

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I didn't do anything unusual here. I gave Scripture permission to mean what it says and say what it means. That's all. So, what do you think?

Did I remove the Gospel of Christ, as given by Paul and the other apostles? Not one tiny bit. Did I give God the freedom to give grace to whomever He wishes, based on His own words? I believe I did.

If you need to wrestle with this, do it with humility, love, joy, and much prayer. Don't check your brain at the door—use it. And let simple logic rule your mind. Let God's love rule your heart.

Love needs truth. Truth needs love. Both need wisdom.

Chapter 2 Discussion and Reflection

Questions:

1. Who is a saint?
2. Who is a sheep?
3. Who is a goat?

Answers:

1. Someone saved by faith in what Jesus did on the cross. A believer.
2. Someone not saved by faith in Jesus. A nonbeliever. But they get to live on in the Millennium.
3. Someone not saved by faith, who did not treat people well. They are doomed to the Lake of Fire.

Reflection: How was this simple doctrine missed for so long? Is there anything about it that is not biblical? Which is the final authority for mankind: the Bible or the Church?

Note: “Biblical” means it matches the Bible, not necessarily the teaching of the Church.

Chapter 3: Loose Threads of Doctrine

In the Bible, there are several lines of thought that seem disconnected from the teachings of mainstream churches. Some of these “loose threads” are often explained away with assumptions or incomplete ideas that never fully tie them into a cohesive narrative. In this chapter, I will show how these outliers actually weave seamlessly into the larger tapestry—and in doing so, they reinforce everything we’ve already seen.

The key lies in recognizing the two distinct forms of humanity that will coexist in the ages to come: glorified saints and unglorified mortals—believers and unbelievers. **Humanity 1.0**, ruled by **Humanity 2.0**, throughout the Millennium and beyond. The first will be last, and the last will be first. The humble believers will one day rule over the not-so-humble nonbelievers. The meek inherit the Earth.

Two Millennial Judgments

As we saw in chapter 2, the sheep and goats are separated at the beginning of the Millennium (Matthew 25). That judgment is the first of the two that are shown to occur in the Millennium. It is to decide who gets to stay and who has to go. For the sheep, it is recovery through God’s grace;

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for the goats it is deserved punishment through God's righteousness.

As we saw, the decision as to who stays and who goes is based on their performance, behavior, or what you might call "works". It has everything to do with being a loving and caring individual. And it is individual (personal). They are not broken up according to which nation or ethnicity or religion they are from.

This means that a Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist has just as much of a chance at the reprieve as anyone else. Even the Jews, who are adamantly anti-Jesus, can live on in His kingdom based on their treatment of others (namely, saints). But these are NOT given grace based on their denial of Christ. He apparently can handle the rejection. He's that secure in His identity.

But the Bible shows us another judgment—the final judgment—that comes at the end of the Millennium. Some call it the "White Throne", or "Bema Seat" judgment. It is a judgment that does not allow room for repentance like most other judgments. (See Revelation 20:11-15 below).

Did you know that God has **two** kinds of judgment that are given to **three** kinds of recipients? Here's how it breaks down: One kind of judgment is **temporary**, and the other is **eternal**. Those are the two kinds of judgment. The recipients can be either and *individual*, a *group* of people, or the *whole world* at once. The Flood of Noah's day was one against the whole world at once (maybe the only one).

The Israelites' neighbors invading and killing them is a group judgment (that happened a lot). The individual judgment is the most serious. The Flood was temporary. The judgments against the Jews and others were temporary. Most of those were to help them repent (turn from their evil ways). And while a judgment against you personally might be temporary too, the final judgment is quite personal and also quite eternal. If you are sent to the Lake of Fire, there is no hope of repentance anymore.

Temporary Wrath		Eternal Wrath	
✓	Individuals	Individuals	✓
✓	Groups or Nations	Groups or Nations	✗
✓	The Entire World	The Entire World	✗

Now, I have a hope (not dogma) that some of those who are in the second (final) judgment will have the opportunity to repent, instead of going off to the Lake of Fire. After all, those who are being judged in the final judgment are resurrected from hell to stand before the Judge (Jesus). Did you know that? Did you know that those in hell are brought out of it for the final judgment? And if they automatically go straight to the Lake of Fire, what's the point of a hearing, judgment, or trial? That seems pointless.

Revelation 20:¹¹ And I saw a great white throne and the One sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from His presence, but they found no place to hide. ¹²I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the

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dead were judged **according to what they had done**, as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire. (NLT)

Notice that when this final judgment happens, it is personal for each person being judged. Notice too that the Earth is no more. Some versions say Earth and heavens. Personally, I call them the Physical Realm and the Spirit Realm. However you slice it, heaven and Earth disappear at this time. They are no more. (See verse 14 above and Revelation 21:1.)

“Wait!” you might say, “Heaven is forever!” Well, yes and no. The spirit realm that we have now and the physical realm will be destroyed, but wherever Jesus lives is the real “heaven”, yes? And you might be thinking that hell is forever too. Nope. It goes away too (see Revelation 21:1). But the Lake of Fire is where the final punishment is meted out, not hell. Hell is just a place of holding until the judgment. It’s not anywhere you’d want to be and it’s no doubt very lonely, scary, and horrible. But my hope is that it will work to cause people to have a change of heart—to repent. And while repentance and faith are required for sainthood, maybe repentance alone will be good enough for entry into the nations. Remember, faith is for saints.

Again, this is a hope of mine, not a hard and fast doctrine or dogma. The dogma is that heaven and Earth as they are now will be replaced by a new and better heaven and Earth. And since hell is in the same spirit realm as heaven, it goes too. Revelation 20 expressly says so.

So all of those people who have been in hell this whole time (about a thousand years more to go) are going to be judged and either sent to the New Earth (the new heaven) or the Lake of Fire (the final torment). Now, I have simplified my beliefs on this and will have more to say in the final chapter about the new heavens. For instance, the Lake of Fire might be located on the New Earth, not separate from it. I'll show my justification later for that assertion.

For now, the big takeaway is that there are two judgments in the Millennium: one at the start and one at the end. The purpose of the first is to see who lives on into the Millennium. And whatever comes out of the second determines who will live in the New Earth or die the “second death”.

Hell and Lake of Fire

Let me just unwrap this thing about hell versus the Lake of Fire a bit more. I admit that this is one of those confusing things taught in scripture that not many folks clearly grasp.

When we read about hell, we get a lot of imagery. There are more verses about hell than the Lake of Fire (or burning sulfur). And indeed, some verses seem to point to hell's fire being unquenchable.

Hell Is Not the Lake of Fire

One of the more persistent misunderstandings in Christian doctrine is the belief that Hell and the Lake of Fire are the same. They are not. The Bible makes a careful distinction between these two realities—both in their **purpose** and **duration**—and a study of the original languages confirms it.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for the realm of the dead is **Sheol** (שְׁאוֹל). This term is used broadly to refer to the grave, the underworld, or the abode of departed souls. It is neither heaven nor the final place of punishment. Instead, it is portrayed as a realm (that I call the Spirit Realm) where the dead await their final fate in a temporary state, without a physical body. For example, David writes in Psalm 16:10, “You will not abandon my soul to **Sheol**, nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.” Similarly, Ecclesiastes 9:10 refers to Sheol as a place where there is no earthly activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom.

In the **New Testament**, we encounter three different Greek terms that clarify the temporary and eternal aspects of postmortem (after death) judgment.

First is **Hades** (ᾍδης), the Greek counterpart to Sheol. Like Sheol, Hades is a **temporary** holding place for the souls of the dead. It is not the final judgment. Jesus refers to it in Luke 16:23, describing a rich man in torment “in Hades,” awaiting his final judgment. Most importantly, Revelation 20:13–14 declares that “Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them,” and then both Death and Hades were **thrown into the Lake of Fire**. This event clearly demonstrates that Hades is not eternal. It is emptied, judged, and then destroyed.

The second Greek term is **Gehenna** (γέεννα), which Jesus frequently uses to describe the **final destination of the wicked**. Gehenna is based on the Valley of Hinnom outside Jerusalem—a place associated with fire, burning refuse, and child sacrifice. In the New Testament, it symbolizes **eternal punishment**. Jesus warns in Matthew 10:28, “Fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in **Gehenna**,” and Mark 9:43 speaks of Gehenna as the place “where the fire is not quenched.” Unfortunately, many modern English Bibles translate this as “hell”. Unlike Hades, Gehenna points forward to the **eternal judgment**—closely corresponding to what Revelation calls the **Lake of Fire**.

A third and less common term is **Tartarus** (τάραρος), found only once in the New Testament. Second Peter 2:4 tells us that “God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into **Tartarus** and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment.” This realm is

distinct from human hell; it is a **temporary prison for fallen angels**, specifically those that raped or seduced women, where they await their final sentence. Like Hades, Tartarus is **not eternal**—it is a holding place for beings who will one day stand before the great white throne.

Finally, the **Lake of Fire** (λίμνη τοῦ πυρός), described in Revelation, is the **true final “Hell”**—the place of everlasting punishment prepared for Satan, his angels, and all who reject God’s salvation. Unlike Sheol, Hades, or Tartarus, the Lake of Fire is eternal and irreversible. Revelation 20:10 tells us that the devil will be “thrown into the **Lake of Fire and sulfur**, and will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” Just a few verses later, we read: “Then Death and Hades were thrown into the Lake of Fire... And if anyone’s name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the Lake of Fire” (Rev. 20:14–15). This is called the **second death**, and it is final.

So to summarize: **Sheol** (Heb.) and **Hades** (Gk.) refer to the temporary realm of the dead; **Tartarus** is a temporary holding place for rebellious angels; **Gehenna** is Jesus’ term for eternal punishment, and the **Lake of Fire** is that final place of judgment. Even **Hell (Hades) itself is destroyed**—cast into the Lake of Fire—proving that it is **not** the final judgment. Only the Lake of Fire is described as **eternal**, unquenchable, and inescapable.

This distinction not only clarifies confusing terminology but also reinforces the seriousness of the

second resurrection and the final judgment. The Bible is precise. So should we be. And without having true faith in Christ, your soul is in grave danger, but might still have a chance based on the grace of God and how you treated others (my personal hope).

If this has confused you, don't feel bad. Many of the greatest saints in the world have missed this distinction for centuries. And it hasn't really been made all that clear in scripture either. But hopefully you can now see the difference. Sometimes, you just have to get into the original languages and see the overarching context of it all through the whole Word of God. See how important diligent Bible study is? Always consider the context and frequently consult a concordance or interlinear Bible.

Sin and Suffering

“If the Millennium is ‘heaven on Earth’, then why is there sin and suffering there?”

Good question, I'm glad I asked it for you.

Many believers assume that once Jesus returns, all sin and sorrow will instantly disappear. But that's not what the Bible teaches. The Millennium is not the final state of things—it is a **dress rehearsal** for the New Heavens and New Earth. During His thousand-year reign, Christ rules the world from Jerusalem, but not all who live under His authority are glorified. Alongside the resurrected righteous—the glorified saints—will be mortal humans: the

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“sheep” who survived the judgment of the nations and entered the Kingdom in their natural bodies, along with their offspring who are born later.

These mortals, though living in a world of divine justice and under the visible reign of Christ, will still possess a fallen nature. The sin problem hasn't been eliminated—it's only restrained. This is why Jesus rules the nations **with an iron rod or scepter** (Psalm 2:9; Revelation 2:27; 19:15). No level of force or discipline will be needed for glorified saints, who are incapable of sin, but it will be necessary for the mortal population still subject to temptation and rebellion.

Sin will not be allowed to flourish during the Millennium, but it will still exist. So will the consequences of sin—especially for those who resist or reject Christ's authority. Suffering, though far less than in the present world, will not be completely absent. There will be no war or demonic attacks, which goes a long way in helping people remain calm and peaceful. But this is not yet the time when God wipes away every tear—that comes **after** the Millennium, in the *New Jerusalem* (Revelation 21:4).

The presence of sin and suffering in the Millennium is not a contradiction; it is a sign that the Kingdom is perhaps more than we have assumed. It reminds us that the final redemption of all things awaits the last judgment and the arrival of the New Heavens and New Earth.

Works Versus Faith for Salvation

For centuries, believers have debated the issue of works versus faith for salvation. Some verses make it sound like works are required, while others clearly say they aren't. In the Old Testament, it can seem like everything depends on performance. But when you read Paul, he's adamant: salvation is by grace through faith, not works (Ephesians 2:8–9). Then James comes along and says, "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:17), and some people try to pit him against Paul, as if they're contradicting each other.

But they're not. Paul and James are in perfect agreement. Paul teaches that salvation is by faith alone—but not by a faith that stays alone. James simply points out that if you don't show any fruit after your conversion, maybe you weren't really converted to begin with. Works don't *earn* salvation, but they *verify* it.

Still, there are passages in Scripture where works seem to carry eternal weight. When Jesus describes the judgment of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25:31–46, it's all about behavior—feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, clothing the naked. On the other hand, when He speaks to Nicodemus in John 3, it's all about belief: "Whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Paul echoes this relentlessly: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Some of the confusion around works and salvation comes from Old Testament passages that appear to link

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righteousness—and even life itself—to obedience and behavior. For example, Leviticus 18:5, Deuteronomy 30:15–16, and Ezekiel 18:21–22 speak of life or blessing coming through keeping God’s commandments. Psalms 15:1–2 and Proverbs 11:4 seem to tie access to God or deliverance from judgment to righteous conduct. Even Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 and Micah 6:6–8 describe the whole duty of man in terms of doing justice and obeying commands. Taken together, these verses can make it seem like salvation was once performance-based—but in reality, they reveal that outward obedience was always meant to reflect an inward faith. That distinction becomes clear in the New Testament, especially when Paul quotes some of these same verses to show how the law leads us to grace. Remember, Abraham’s covenant with God was through faith. Then the Law of Moses came later to show our need for faith.

So what’s going on here?

Here’s the key: there are two kinds of people who will avoid the Lake of Fire. First, there are the glorified saints—those who are saved by faith in Christ and born again into a new creation. But second, there are those who are not glorified, yet still welcomed into the earthly Kingdom because of how they treated others—the “sheep” from the judgment of the nations. That’s not the same as salvation as the saints know it, but neither is it damnation. It’s entry into the Millennial Kingdom, not eternal life in a glorified body.

But let me be clear: I don't recommend trying to "get in" that way. The stakes are too high. No one is good enough to guarantee it (Isaiah 64:6 still stands). And no matter how it plays out, it's still the mercy and grace of Christ that makes either outcome possible.

So yes, technically, works can keep someone from condemnation—but *only in a limited way* and only into the Kingdom as a fallen mortal. They will not give you the inheritance of the saints, the resurrection life, or the opportunity to rule and reign with Christ. That comes only by faith.

Rebellion in the Millennium

One of the "loose threads" in the Bible that always bothered me was the rebellion that takes place when Satan is released at the end of the thousand years. Why would anyone rebel—especially after a thousand years of perfect rule under Christ? For a long time, I had the same assumption many Christians do: that only saints will be in the Millennium. If that's what you've believe too, keep reading.

Here's the key passage:

Revelation 20:⁷ When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. ⁸ He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the

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seashore. ⁹ And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God's people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.

Some expositors argue that this is the same “Gog and Magog” from Ezekiel 38-39. But that misses the point entirely. The Revelation reference is not saying it's the same battle—it's using the phrase *symbolically*, evoking the scale and setting of the Ezekiel war. In fact, the similarities are meant to underscore that this is the final rebellion of the next age, the Millennial age—not a repeat of Armageddon (the last battle of *this* age). The earlier war will have happened a thousand years prior. If nothing else, consider this: The Antichrist, Gog in Ezekiel, is already in the Lake of Fire by this point (Revelation 19:20). He's not coming back.

But for me, that wasn't the real problem. What used to baffle me was the *very existence* of a rebellion at all. Who are these people rising up against Jesus? How can they be deceived? I mean, if only saints are present in the Millennium—and we are glorified, perfected, and united with Christ—then how could any of us fall for Satan's lies?

Well, that's the point. *We won't*. The glorified saints aren't the ones being deceived. We're ruling and reigning with Christ—we've been sealed, perfected, and joined to Him forever. The rebels are someone else.

And by now, the answer should be clear: the rebellion comes from among the *mortal nations*—the descendants of the sheep who survived the judgment at Christ’s return (Matthew 25:31–46). These are the ones who entered the Kingdom in their natural bodies. And in fact, some of those original sheep may still be alive at the end of the thousand years. How? Because they’ve had access to the Water of Life and the Tree of Life (Revelation 22:1–2), which are for the healing and longevity of the nations. We’ll explore those later, but for now, it’s enough to recognize that long life and ongoing mortal generations are part of the Millennial structure.

So this rebellion isn’t a failure of Christ’s reign—it’s the final exposure of the human heart. Even in a world ruled by perfect righteousness, given enough time, sinful humanity will still choose its own way. And God allows this final rebellion to draw the line one last time before the new creation begins.

No Marriage for Resurrected Souls

Mark 12:25 “For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage. In this respect they will be like the angels in heaven.” (NLT)

Matthew 22:30 “For when the dead rise, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage but will be like the angels in heaven.” (NLT)

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Luke 20:³⁴ Jesus replied, “Marriage is for people here on earth. ³⁵ But in the age to come, those worthy of being raised from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage. ³⁶ And they will never die again. In this respect they will be like angels. They are children of God and children of the resurrection.” (NLT)

See how these parallel verses are discussing those who were **resurrected**? That doesn’t apply to the sheep, now does it. And who are the ones who are resurrected? The saints.

So, in these verses, we are clearly reading about the saints and that the saints will no longer be married. Pretty clear?

I used to think this was pretty cut-and-dried, myself. No married saints in the Millennium. Got it. But then I ran into Ezekiel’s prophecies about the Millennium.

Here is Ezekiel sharing about the priests who are serving in the Millennial Temple.

Ezekiel 44:²⁰ “They must neither shave their heads nor let their hair grow too long. Instead, they must trim it regularly. ²¹ The priests must not drink wine before entering the inner courtyard. ²² They may choose their **wives** only from among the virgins of Israel or the **widows** of the priests. They may not marry other widows or divorced women. ²³ They will teach my people the difference

between what is holy and what is common, what is ceremonially clean and unclean.” (NLT)

I have to be honest. With my mindset of only saints being in the Millennium, this blew my mind right out my ears! Why are there priests? We’ll get to that next. Why are there sacrifices? We’ll get to that in a minute. But why are they dying? Why are they getting married? And why are some people getting divorced? (???)

Well, when the Sheep to Nations doctrine came into view with clarity, all of those problems quickly melted away forever.

Obviously, the priests are not saints. Saints don’t marry. Saints don’t die. Saints don’t serve in the temple, dealing with sacrifices. Saints are done with religion.

What this DOES show me, quite clearly now, is that the Zadok line of priests in the Millennium are not saints and they are actually of the nations—mortals who either had no faith in Christ at the beginning of the thousand years or their descendants. These priests are not saved by their faith in the cross of Christ for the atonement of their sins. It’s just that simple.

Millennial Sacrifices

This one tripped me up for years. If Jesus is the final, perfect sacrifice for sins—and He is—then why in the world do we see sacrifices happening in the Millennium?

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Isn't that not only unnecessary, but even borderline blasphemous?

Let's look at the text.

Ezekiel 43:¹⁸ Then he said to me, "Son of man, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: These will be the regulations for the burning of offerings and the sprinkling of blood when the altar is built. ¹⁹ At that time, the Levitical priests of the family of Zadok, who minister before me, are to be given a young bull for a sin offering, says the Sovereign Lord. ²⁰ You will take some of its blood and smear it on the four horns of the altar, the four corners of the upper ledge, and the curb that runs around that ledge. This will cleanse and make atonement for the altar. (NLT)

Wait—a **sin offering**? That's not symbolic language. That's a literal animal being sacrificed to make atonement in a physical temple during the reign of Christ.

Let me be clear: Jesus is the only way to eternal salvation. His blood paid for sins—past, present, and future. That's not up for debate. So, if these sacrifices aren't for eternal salvation, then what are they for?

They are for punishment, not salvation. Think of them as the equivalent of going to court and paying a fine. You're not losing your citizenship—but you *are* being held accountable. The price, in this case, isn't money or jail time—it's flesh and blood. Not yours, thankfully, but that of a substitute animal. That's exactly what these sacrifices

are: real, enforceable penalties in a world where righteousness is taken seriously.

And make no mistake—these sacrifices are not for glorified saints. Saints don't sin, and saints don't need to offer anything. These are for mortals: the unglorified sheep and their offspring who made it through the judgment of the nations. These people are still subject to temptation, failure, and disobedience. That's why they still need priests. That's why there's a temple. That's why the iron rod is still in use.

And here's something that really struck me: These sacrifices may also be God's response to all those people—throughout history and into the future—who insisted on coming to Him through **religion** instead of **relationship**. It's as if He says, "You wanted ritual? You wanted sacrifice instead of grace? Fine. Here it is. And now it will last forever." That system you clung to? It's back—but it's no longer optional, and it's no longer symbolic. It's law.

Even in the Old Testament, sacrifices were never the actual means of eternal salvation. They were always about obedience, covenant, and cleansing. They pointed to a deeper need and a better sacrifice—Christ. In the Millennium, they still do. But now they point backward to what He already accomplished. It's not a new system—it's a physical, inescapable reminder of what rejecting grace actually costs.

So yes, there are sacrifices in the Millennium. But they're not about getting saved—they're about dealing with sin in a world where the King reigns in righteousness and won't tolerate rebellion. I hope this helps.

Death in the Millennium

Let me begin with a confession: I don't know exactly what happens to mortals in the Millennium when they die. Scripture doesn't tell us plainly, and I'm not going to pretend otherwise. Do they go to hell? Straight to the Lake of Fire? Possibly—but whatever happens, it's immediate, not eventual. What I *can* say is that glorified saints will not experience death ever again. But for mortals in the Millennial Kingdom, death is still a reality. They did not die before the Millennium began. They were not resurrected. They were not glorified.

We already saw in Revelation 20:9 that at the end of the Millennium, fire comes down from heaven and consumes a vast number of rebels. That's death—clear and final.

So yes, death still exists during the Millennium. Just like sacrifices. Just like sin, judgment, and even rebellion. It's a time of peace, justice, and righteousness—but it's still not the final state. It's not yet the New Creation.

We simply let the Word speak. Death remains a fact of life in the Millennium—but not for the saints. We've already passed from death to life. Forever.

Children in the Millennium

By now, this probably doesn't even need to be addressed, but I'll skim over it anyway. Are there children in the Millennium? Yes. Will they grow up to be glorified saints? No. Will they live for hundreds of years? Most likely—maybe even indefinitely. How? Because they'll have access to the Water of Life and the fruit from the Tree of Life to sustain their mortal flesh.

If they need healing, they can use the leaves of the Tree in very practical, physical ways. I tend to think of it naturally—like making a tea, or applying a poultice (a medicinal wrap) to speed recovery. Bruised knee, broken arm, concussion? Use a poultice to help it heal. Make a soup or steep the leaves into a tea. Drink life-giving water. And if something worse happens—say a fatal fall or major injury? A glorified saint can take care of that. God's got it covered.

Need for Water and Tree of Life

And this brings us to these amazing elements of life: The Water of Life and the Tree of Life. I won't belabor it much, I'll just show who gets it and why.

The Bible opens with the **Tree of Life**, and it ends with it too. That's not just poetic—it's intentional. In the first chapter of God's great saga of humanity, Adam and Eve were blocked from the tree. Why? Because if they had eaten from it after the Fall, they would have lived forever in

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their sin. That would've created a world full of rebellious immortals—and made salvation impossible. So God drove them out of the garden and placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree (Genesis 3:22–24). That was mercy.

But in the final chapter, things come full circle. The Tree of Life returns—this time not as something forbidden, but as something freely offered. The descendants of Adam are welcomed back to it—not all of them glorified saints, but mortals too. This tree is not allegoric or symbolic; it's real healing for real bodies. A physical reality.

The prophet Ezekiel saw this ahead of time. He described a river flowing from the Temple in Jerusalem, with fruit trees growing on either side:

Ezekiel 47:12 “Fruit trees of all kinds will grow along both sides of the river. The leaves of these trees will never turn brown and fall, and there will always be fruit on their branches. There will be a new crop every month, for they are watered by the river flowing from the Temple. The fruit will be for food and the leaves for healing.” (NLT)

That river, Ezekiel says, flows all the way to the Dead Sea and brings it back to life (Ezekiel 47:8–9). It's a picture of total restoration—even the cursed places are healed.

John picks up that same imagery in Revelation about the New Earth:

Revelation 22:1–2 “Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit... The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.” (NLT)

These trees are not symbolic. They’re literal. Their fruit is real, and their leaves serve a real purpose: **healing**. Who needs healing in the New Creation? Not saints. Glorified people don’t get sick. But **mortals**—the sheep and their descendants—will still have mortal flesh. They won’t age like we do now, and they might never die at all, but their bodies will still need care and sustenance. And this is how God provides it.

The Water of Life and the Tree of Life are for **life support** in the ages to come. Not life support like a machine—but divine, Edenic nourishment to keep mortal humanity thriving forever. And yes, glorified saints can partake too—not because they need it, but because it’s freely given.

From Genesis to Revelation, this tree tells a story: what was lost through sin is restored through grace. The Tree of Life is not just part of Eden. It’s part of the Kingdom to come—offered not just to saints, but to nations. To mortals. To mankind.

Genesis 2:9 *The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and*

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that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 3:22–24 *“What if they reach out, take fruit from the tree of life, and eat it? Then they will live forever!” So the Lord God banished them from the Garden of Eden... After sending them out, the Lord God stationed mighty cherubim to the east of the Garden of Eden. And he placed a flaming sword that flashed back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.*

Ezekiel 47:8–9 *Then he said to me, “This river flows east through the desert into the valley of the Dead Sea. The waters of this stream will make the salty waters of the Dead Sea fresh and pure. There will be swarms of living things wherever the water of this river flows.”*

Ezekiel 47:12 *Fruit trees of all kinds will grow along both sides of the river. The leaves of these trees will never turn brown and fall... The fruit will be for food and the leaves for healing.*

Revelation 2:7 *“To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God.”*

Revelation 22:1–2 *Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a*

tree of life... The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.

Revelation 22:14 *Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life.*

Revelation 22:17 *The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” Let anyone who hears this say, “Come.” Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.*

National Identities

One of the more beautiful and often-overlooked truths of the coming ages is that national identities are not erased in the Kingdom—they are celebrated. God doesn't flatten the cultures of the world into one generic people. He restores each of them, purifies them, and then receives their unique glory as worship.

In both the Millennium and the New Earth, the nations are still present. The prophets saw it, and John affirms it clearly:

- *“All the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. Its gates will never be closed at the end of day because there is no night there.” (Revelation 21:26–27, NLT)*

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- *“All the nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous deeds have been revealed.”*
(Revelation 15:4, NLT)
- *“The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory.”*
(Revelation 21:24, NLT)
- *“From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me,” says the Lord.* (Isaiah 66:23, NIV)

This tells us that ethnicities, cultures, languages, and styles are not discarded in the Kingdom—they are redeemed. And each will glorify God in its own beautiful, distinct way. The peoples of Earth will bring their best—art, style, honor, language, creativity, and cultural excellence—into the Holy City. Different accents, different customs, different garments, all gathered at the feet of the Lamb.

You can almost imagine the parades of color and celebration moving through the gates—bright garments, banners flying, dancing feet and lifted hands. Music and singing echo through the streets in every tongue. Every tribe, language, and nation finds its fulfillment—not in uniformity, but in harmony. The cultures of the world don’t compete; they complete. All of them expressing the glory of God in diverse, dazzling ways.

These are not empty rituals. This is joy-filled, living worship—the kind that comes from peoples who’ve been fully healed, fully known, and finally home.

The 144,000

And speaking of song and celebration, look at the 144,000 of Revelation 7 and 14.

Revelation 14:¹ Then I saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him were 144,000 who had His name and His Father’s name written on their foreheads. ² And I heard a sound from heaven like the roar of mighty ocean waves or the rolling of loud thunder. It was like the sound of many harpists playing together.

³ This great choir sang a wonderful new song in front of the throne of God and before the four living beings and the twenty-four elders. No one could learn this song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴ They have kept themselves as pure as virgins, following the Lamb wherever He goes. They have been purchased from among the people on the earth as a special offering to God and to the Lamb. ⁵ They have told no lies; they are without blame. (NLT)

These are not saints. They are mortals—144,000 men, twelve thousand from each of the twelve tribes of Israel, as listed in Revelation 7. They are faithful, pure, and dedicated. But they are not glorified. Their place is unique, and their role is distinct.

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Revelation 7:¹ Then I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds so they did not blow on the earth or the sea, or even on any tree. ² And I saw another angel coming up from the east, carrying the seal of the living God. And he shouted to those four angels, who had been given power to harm land and sea, ³ “Wait! Don’t harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of His servants.” (NLT)

If they were saints, they would already be marked and sealed by the Holy Spirit. The glorified don’t need a visible sign—spiritual beings like angels can clearly see who belongs to Christ by His Spirit. They can see Him upon them. But these 144,000 require something more outward and visible. They need to be *distinguished* during a time of global judgment. This seal is for the angels to know: these are God’s protected ones—do not touch.

And it’s pretty clear—these are very special mortals. They represent a holy remnant of Israel, the preeminent nation in the Kingdom of Christ. As the natural branches, Israel will be exalted once again during the Millennium and beyond. The 144,000 stand as a firstfruit offering from the tribes—pure, loyal, undefiled, and honored. They follow the Lamb with total devotion, and they sing a new song that no one else is allowed to learn. That’s quite a distinction.

So while the saints rule and reign in glorified bodies, and the nations bring their splendor into the Holy City, these 144,000 remain a visible testimony of faithful Israel—a nation reborn, redeemed, and restored under its rightful King.

Eternal Punishment and God’s Grace

Isaiah 65:20 describes a time on the new earth when “no longer will babies die when only a few days old... Only the cursed will die that young” (NLT). This reveals that even in the new creation, death will still occur—just not prematurely or for the righteous. This nuance challenges the popular view that death will be completely eradicated everywhere in the final state.

Revelation 21 and 22 give us vivid descriptions of the New Jerusalem, the holy city, with no tears, pain, or death (Revelation 21:4, 22:3). This promises a place of ultimate joy and perfect communion with God. However, the presence of gates and walls around the city suggests a boundary, implying not everyone will be inside. Outside the city are those labeled as “dogs, sorcerers, the sexually immoral, murderers, idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood” (Revelation 22:15). These individuals are part of the New Earth, yet excluded from the city’s holiness and fullness. And just because they are outside, does not mean they are walking around and living a regular life. They might be confined in fire.

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Isaiah 66:24 describes a place where “their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched,” a vivid image of ongoing torment that is visible to those who dwell on the New Earth. This strongly suggests that the Lake of Fire, the final place of eternal punishment, exists in view of the new creation—not separate from it.

This division speaks volumes about God’s grace and justice. Grace is for those within the city walls, those saved and glorified. Life outside the walls will not be a nightmarish hellscape but a world still governed by God’s goodness—a utopia, in a sense. Prayers will still be answered, and God’s presence will still sustain life. But some, because of heinous crimes or rebellion, will dwell outside the city in a state of torment or hardship, visible to all. This includes murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, and other unrepentant sinners—those whom Paul explicitly excludes from the kingdom (1 Corinthians 6:9–10).

While Scripture clearly reveals the existence of the Lake of Fire and its role as the final place of eternal punishment for the unrepentant, it does not explicitly state *where* it is located. Some passages, such as Isaiah 66:24 and Revelation 22:15, suggest it may be visible from the New Earth, implying proximity rather than separation into another realm. Taking these verses at face value challenges us to reconsider traditional views and wrestle with this difficult reality. If anyone has a better reconciliation or understanding, I’m genuinely open to hearing it.

Mercy for Some

She caresses her bulging torso, as if to stroke the growing child within. With tears running down her dust-covered face, she deeply fears for her child's future. Her hijab has soaked up more tears and dirt than it can bear—unrecognizable from its usual pristine condition before the darkness came. She has spent the last seven years in a fog of despair, uncertainty, and fear-filled bunkers. Dumbfounded that she allowed herself to become pregnant in such times, her guilt rises in remembrance of the night she comforted her now-deceased husband—the moment that led to this condition.

She is defeated. Defeated by the enemy's relentless push to form the world into his own twisted vision for humanity. Not at all what she was promised. And yet, she bought into it. Who didn't?

And now, here she is—alive. Alone. Heavy with life in a world that seemed designed for death.

Then something shifts. She doesn't know how to explain it. The wind doesn't change. The sky doesn't split open. But suddenly, everything feels... still.

And in the thick stillness, a whisper—not to her ears, but to her spirit. The atmosphere of the dirty bunker is suddenly filled with love, peace, and comfort.

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“I see you,” says the kind and firm male voice in her head. “I see your son. I want him to live a long and happy life, in freedom and joy.”

The voice is not thunder. It doesn't shake the ground. But it shakes her very soul.

“I want him to run in open fields. To laugh. To grow tall in peace. I am building My Kingdom now—and I want him in it.”

She rises to her knees, trembling. Not in fear—but in something else. Something forgotten. Something sacred. Hope.

And in her spirit, she knows: this is not her death—it is her rescue. She knows that the Creator is lovingly telling her that He wants her child to live in His kingdom, as a free person in a loving and peaceful world—the very thing that all mothers want for their children.

Her rescue is mercy. But not everyone receives it. Some are pulled into judgment, while some, like her and her child, are welcomed into peace. And that's where we go next—The Lord's Kingdom.

Chapter 3 Discussion and Reflection

Questions:

1. How many judgments are in the Millennium?
2. Who rebels in the Millennium?
 - Saints
 - Nations
3. Why are there sacrifices in the Millennium?
 - For salvation
 - For punishment
 - There aren't any

Answers:

1. Two—The separation of the sheep and goats at the beginning; the final judgment at the end.
2. The Nations—Glorified saints are perfect and cannot sin against Jesus.
3. For punishment due to sin. It has nothing to do with salvation for sainthood. That time has passed by then.

Reflection: What loose thread of doctrine explanation answered questions for you?

Chapter 4: Return of the King

I've already shared with you the historic premillennial timeline of these events that are soon to break on the horizon. And as surely as the Sun rises in the East, these things will take place exactly as told in the Holy Scriptures.

But now, in this chapter, I'm going to back up a step and show you a more cinematic vignette or two of how I see these things playing out before our eyes. I'll try to not be so dry as I describe the doctrinal issues that are in play and/or on their way. I feel that this might help you to see these things as clearly as I do (due to the grace of our glorious God, with His gift of wisdom that He freely gives).

Since I skipped through the timeline so quickly in chapter one, it might be helpful to dive into just a few of the details that were not really brought out as clearly as I know I can. This is where we allow the Bible to come to life in our hearts and minds.

Who is God?

Before jumping into the wrath of God, it might be helpful for some of you to see the Triune God the way that I do and how He relates to His creation. If nothing else, it will allow you to understand my mind a bit better, which can be helpful when trying to follow my train of thought in this study.

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Several years ago, I received an epiphany of how life exists in three “realms”. (I avoid using terms of dimensions in speaking of heaven and earth.) It really helped me to wrap my head around the creation and the One Who created it. And so maybe it will be helpful to you as well, whatever your relationship is with the Holy One.

As touched on already in earlier chapters, I see the creation as being made up of two realms: the physical and spiritual realms. These realms are like habitats designed by the Creator for His creatures to exist in.

The **Physical Realm** is perhaps the lower of the two and is where you and I are right now. We call it the cosmos, or universe. It is made up of time, space, and matter. And like our God, Who is made up of three “Persons”, these three aspects of the creation are each necessary in its essence. For without any one of these three aspects, we would not have the cosmos that we do.

Time is not matter. Matter is not space. And space is not time. This is like the Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father. And just as the universe would not be the same without all three essentials in place together, so, too, our Elohim (mighty God, in a plural voice) would not be Himself without all three of His Persons together.

Time is a trinity: past, present, and future. Space is a trinity: up/down, side to side, and front to back (three dimensions). And matter is a trinity: solid, liquid, or gas.

Water would not be what it is if it did not exist in those three states and is a perfect illustration of the three states of matter. That is our physical realm.

The **Spirit Realm** (or spiritual realm) is where angels are from. It's also where the human soul goes upon physical death. And just as we humans are the ultimate expression of creation in the physical realm, so the angelic race is the ultimate expression of the spirit realm.

And just as our physical realm has four dimensions (time is the fourth) with many locales, so too the spirit realm has different areas, or places within it.

One of those places in the spirit realm we call the third heaven, where Christ's throne is. Another place is the opposite of that place of perfection and is called "hell". It is a place where the Father, Son, and Spirit withhold their presence for the purpose of punishing those who have ignored Him or even fought against Him and His people. Perhaps the surest way to experience this hell is to treat those who love God with contempt or violence.

And just like our own physical realm, with its unexplored corners, I'm sure there are other places in the spiritual realm that we have no idea exist. Be that as it may, we can at least agree that the Bible shows us these two parts of the realm beyond our borders.

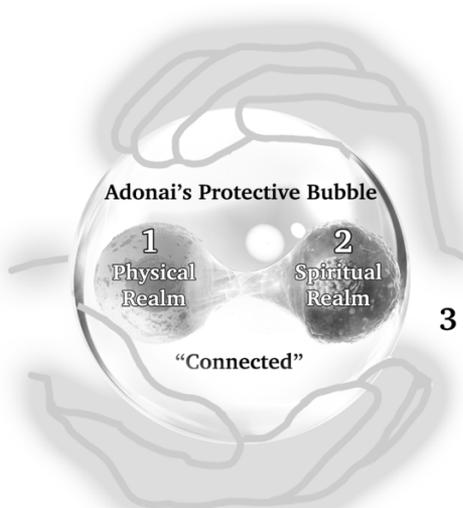
The third realm that I know of I call the **Divine Realm**. This is none other than God, Himself (the Father).

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You see, He is infinite and eternal, but our two realms are not. We need a habitat but God *is* His habitat.

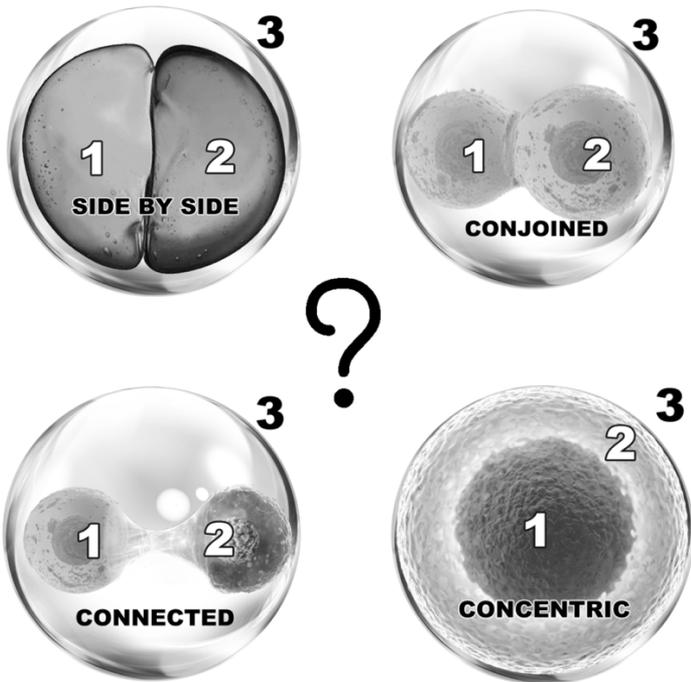
Our two realms of existence in the creation are shown to have a beginning and/or an end. The beginning of the physical realm is clearly laid out for us in Genesis and its end is foretold in Revelation. And while the spirit realm's beginning is not spoken of, we know that it had a beginning because it exists, and has an end, as also told in Revelation 21:1.

What the relationship between our two created realms is, exactly, is not really given to us. But let me share how I see these realms in relation to the Creator and His creative act of forming them. This is where I bring in an illustration.



1. Physical Realm 2. Spiritual Realm 3. Divine Realm
The hands are Jesus and Holy Spirit; 3 is Father God

In the image shared above, you will see that I have shown them as connected in some fashion, while being separate (maybe that's the "tunnel" that some claim to experience on death). But this is only one possible configuration between the two realms. Other possibilities could be side by side, conjoined, concentric, or something unknown to us, like a kind of phased relationship, much like our own spirit and body relationship within each of us.



Other possible arrangements or configurations of physical and spiritual realms

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Looking again at the image with the hands, I see the creation existing within the hands of God. And as the image shows, His “Hands” are none other than Jesus and the Holy Spirit (as a metaphor).

What got me to see the creation in this way is rather simple, when you think about it. Paul tells Timothy that God lives in unapproachable light.

1 Timothy 6:16 He [God] alone can never die, and He lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach Him. No human [read, mortal] eye has ever seen Him, nor ever will. All honor and power to Him forever! Amen.

And since evil cannot exist in His presence, He had to do something to protect Lucifer from destruction upon his first sin.

Psalm 5: ⁴ O God, you take no pleasure in wickedness; you cannot tolerate the sins of the wicked.

⁵ Therefore, the proud may not stand in your presence, for you hate all who do evil.

⁶ You will destroy those who tell lies.

The Lord detests murderers and deceivers. (NLT)

This is why I show His hands and a kind of bubble around the creation (both realms), since sin originated in the spirit realm and was brought into the physical realm.

I see this as God’s way of protecting us from His righteousness that would automatically destroy our evil nature and us with it.

So we can say that when Jesus tells us that “No one can come to the Father but through Me” (John 14:6), it is a literal fact. Look again at the hands of God in the image.

And this, I believe is for our protection.

Notice the irony of those who deny Jesus while He is protecting them from utter destruction due to their evil nature (which all humans born of Adam and Eve have). If it were not for Jesus and Holy Spirit protecting us from God’s righteousness, we would not exist. And there is absolutely no way to get to the Father without going through Jesus, physically, spiritually, or any other way.

But do not think that Jesus will not punish those who deserve it. He has promised that He will execute His vengeance upon evil man.

Romans 12:9 Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the Lord. (NLT)

We know that Jesus is patient and desires that no one should suffer such a fate. But the time will come when His patience runs out.

2 Peter 3:8 But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. ⁹The Lord isn’t really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be

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destroyed, but wants everyone to repent. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

Yes, it's that important and He's indeed that serious about it.

God's Wrath

So with all of that in mind, let's turn our attention to what this will look like and how it will play out. This will not be an exhaustive treatment of the wrath of God, but I'll share it as deeply as this study will allow. You can see this discussed in more depth in *End Times Made Easy*, my other book on eschatology.

Firstly, it's important to know *when* His wrath will come upon this rebellious planet and people. Many teachers seem to confuse God's wrath with Satan's wrath. So I'll start with clearing that up for you.

Timing

According to Revelation 12:12, the Great Tribulation is Satan's wrath. Here it is with a bit of context:

Revelation 12:¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens,

“It has come at last—
salvation and power

and the Kingdom of our God,
and the authority of his Christ.
For the accuser of our brothers and sisters
has been thrown down to earth—
the one who accuses them
before our God day and night.

¹¹ And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb
and by their testimony.

And they did not love their lives so much
that they were afraid to die.

¹² Therefore, rejoice, O heavens!

And you who live in the heavens, rejoice!
But terror will come on the earth and the sea,
for the devil has come down to you **in great anger**,
knowing that he has **little time**.”

¹³ When the dragon realized that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman [Israel] who had given birth to the male child [Jesus]. ¹⁴ But she was given two wings like those of a great eagle so she could fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness. There she would be cared for and protected from the dragon for a time, times, and half a time [3½ years; 1,260 days]. (NLT)

This throwing down of the dragon—Satan and his fallen angels—will not occur until the tribulation has already begun. We know this, partially, through what we just read: verse 10 says that he accuses our brothers and sisters. Those are saints. And saints only exist since Jesus

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was here. So this is definitely in the “last days”, since Jesus ascended into heaven.

And when Jesus says that there will be a time so terrible that no other time will be as terrible, this is the time He is referring to (see Mathew 24). We call it the Great Tribulation.

Matthew 24:¹⁵ “The day is coming when you will see what Daniel the prophet spoke about—the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing in the Holy Place.” (Reader, pay attention!) ¹⁶ “Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. ¹⁷ A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. ¹⁸ A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. ¹⁹ How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. ²⁰ And pray that your flight will not be in winter or on the Sabbath. ²¹ For **there will be greater anguish than at any time since the world began. And it will never be so great again.** ²² In fact, **unless that time of calamity is shortened, not a single person will survive.** But it will be shortened for the sake of God’s chosen ones.”

That is a description of what Satan’s wrath will look like. And Jesus has promised us persecution for having faith in Him.

Matthew 10:¹⁶ “Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves. ¹⁷ But beware! For you will be handed over to the courts and will be flogged with whips in the

synagogues. ¹⁸ You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me. ¹⁹ When you are arrested, don't worry about how to respond or what to say. God will give you the right words at the right time. ²⁰ For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

And Jesus actually hints in Matthew 24 when God's wrath actually begins. Here it is:

Matthew 24:²⁹ “Immediately after the anguish of those days,

the sun will be darkened,
the moon will give no light,
the stars will fall from the sky,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. (NLT)

That part about the sun, moon, stars, and powers is a quote from earlier prophets in the Old Testament. It refers to the Day of the Lord, which is a thousand year period that begins with His wrath. (*See Isaiah 24:23, Amos 5:18, Zephaniah 1:4-16, and Zechariah 14:6-7. And Peter echoes it in Acts 2:20 as well.*)

And Peter also shows that the Day of the Lord will be a long period of time.

2 Peter 3:¹¹ Since everything around us is going to be destroyed like this, what holy and godly lives you should live, ¹² looking forward to **the day of God** and

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hurrying it along. **On that day**, he will set the heavens on fire, and the elements will melt away in the flames. (NLT)

When taken in context, we see that the Day of the Lord includes His wrath, judgment, and reign during the Millennium. That is a thousand-year period, which coincides with Peter's instruction that a day is as a thousand years with God.

This means that the tribulation is Satan's wrath and God's wrath begins immediately following Satan's rampage. Please do not confuse the two with each other. It isn't biblical to do so. And also know that the Millennium begins after His wrath is completed. The first millennial judgment (of the sheep and goats) is not part of His wrath as shown throughout John's visions in Revelation.

The Lamb on the Throne

I see Jesus on His throne in heaven. He has been receiving His brothers and sisters ever since the time He died for us in the first century. Early on, He received thousands of believers who were horribly tortured and killed for their faith in Him and His Gospel.

Since that time, more and more and more of His faithful have come to Him in naked souls after their bodies were mutilated, burnt, and destroyed on His account. Billions have come to Him over the last two millennia and in the tribulation the most ever will be received.

John saw a multitude of believers in heaven in one of his visions recorded in Revelation 7.

Revelation 7:⁹ After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, **from every nation and tribe and people and language**, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they were shouting with a great roar,

“Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne
and from the Lamb!”

¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living beings. And they fell before the throne with their faces to the ground and worshiped God. ¹² They sang,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and strength belong to our God
forever and ever! Amen.”

¹³ Then one of the twenty-four elders asked me, “Who are these who are clothed in white? Where did they come from?”

¹⁴ And I said to him, “Sir, you are the one who knows.”

Then he said to me, **“These are the ones who died in the great tribulation. They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white.**

¹⁵“That is why they stand in front of God’s throne and serve Him day and night in His Temple.

And He Who sits on the throne will give them shelter.

¹⁶ They will never again be hungry or thirsty; they will never be scorched by the heat of the sun.

¹⁷ For the Lamb on the throne will be their Shepherd.

He will lead them to springs of life-giving water.

And God will wipe every tear from their eyes.” (NLT)

If you have been taught that these are all Jews, or what some call “tribulation saints”, then you need to toss that form of dippy-sensationalist teaching in the trash where it belongs. These people are saints of Christ from all nations, tongues and tribes. They are not just the offspring of Jacob. And if someone told you that the Church is not in the book of Revelation in its main teachings then that too is a lie. Did John call them the “ekklesia”, a Greek word for “congregation”? No, He was more emphatic than that. These are saints who were killed in the wrath of Satan for their faith in Jesus. And they died in the tribulation—a truth that pretribulational error can’t seem to understand. You might be one of these saints. Me too. If so, rejoice in your future martyrdom for His name.

The Return

With each beloved servant He receives, His patience wanes a bit and His ire waxes. He cannot forget a single one of the atrocities against His beloved. By the time this age is nearing its appointed end, He will be boiling mad and ready to unleash His awesome wrath against those who have hurt each of His dear saints and sheep. He has taken each offense as a personal attack against Himself.

So at the appointed time, set by the Father, He calls His white horse to Himself and mounts and zooms off toward the physical realm.

His archangels, Michael and Gabriel, scurry to mount and join Him. They can only try to catch up as He speeds out of the spirit realm's borders. The angel armies scramble to catch up to their Leader and His captains.

I see Him pass Pluto on the edge of our solar system. Then He passes Neptune and Uranus. Saturn and Jupiter are just fleeting scenery as He speeds ever closer to His beloved in peril.

As He approaches the asteroid belt, He shouts and the celestial rocks in His and His angels' path are sent like missiles ahead to the planet He loves. Those rocks are soon to be agents of wrath, pummeling the blue orb we call home. We can read about these celestial bombs in the visions of John on Patmos.

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If the space monitoring stations have not been utterly destroyed by Satan and his antichrist, they get the alarms and see images or data showing a huge number of targets heading toward our world. Astrophysicists and astronomers are warning of impending calamity, as a mass collision event is on its way.

Like a shotgun blast, the earth is hit by thousands of rocks in the form of meteorites—all aflame and bursting on the surface, raising fire and smoke into the atmosphere, choking out the rays of the sun, moon, and stars.

On the surface, it seems as if the sky is falling. A full third of the planet is pummeled. Darkness begins to cover the reeling planet, now meeting its fate. Smoke and ash begin to reign the skies. But the ash has a property to it that causes caustic burns on the skin of the unrepentant.

One large rock hits the ocean, spoiling the waters and turning the entire ocean red, killing all sea life and sinking all ships. Another huge rock slams into the land and its cloud turns all fresh water it touches into poison.

Tsunamis, wash onto the land like never before imagined and wipe millions from the coasts into oblivion.

Right about this time is when the astronomers are noticing a second wave of objects coming our way. But by now even amateur astronomers are seeing a glow coming from the depths of space, even through the clouds a glow as bright as the Sun is beginning to appear in the East.

Chapter 4: Return of the King

Panic begins to take hold of the entire human race as all can see with the naked eye that something really terrible and awesome is unfolding before them.

Just about this time, the Commander of the angel armies halts, just outside the atmosphere. His captains finally catch up to Him and flank Him on each side. Gabriel on one side and Michal on the other. Then He tells Gabriel to blow his horn.

The blast of Gabriel's horn is heard and felt around the planet, as if he were right next to every ear. The Lord shouts a terrible cry and Michael does too. This is when the angel armies finally catch up and flow around the three like rocks in a torrential river. They stream past the Holy leaders and speed ever faster to their appointed targets.

Some are tasked with capturing the enemy, now cowering in their holes. One angel has the key to the abyss and throws the great devil, Satan, into the dark dungeon and slams the door shut with the culprit in chains.

Others are on a rescue mission to find the ones who have been faithful to their Master. They scour the planet for survivors.

The Lord Himself begins to scrub the planet clean of the refuse that refused His hand in friendship. He is terrible and fierce as He rains down His flaming bolts of fury upon the rebels. Many die in His vengeful wrath.

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About this time, the four living creatures, still in the spirit realm come together to form a portal in space that appears over where the Lord had paused, just outside the upper atmosphere. On their end of this passage between realms, the call is made for all the righteous in heaven to come and join the triumphal parade around Earth.

Through it they stream and assemble in the air over the reeling planet. Billions of them are assembling. Each one is glowing white in pure robes of righteousness. As they come through the Lord's door to Earth, they each receive a new body that is sinless and a blend of both spirit and physical matter.

On the surface, those who can see into the sky are amazed at the sight of these people, robed in perfection and light, streaming across the heavens. They begin a procession across the sky as they shout praises and acclamation for their Deliverer Who is giving them the same glory that has previously been His alone. In an instant, each one is transformed into a new form of humanity—glorified saints.

Around the globe they glide through the air.

This is about the time that those living believers and faithful followers of the Master are found by His angel troops and are sent to Him in the air. Each one goes to Him and receives the same new nature with a holy hug and a kiss. Then they too join the procession over the world that is now stretching out over continents.

At long last, freedom from tyranny and oppression of the enemy has been realized by all His faithful. In short time, all that are to be saved and changed are there, flying through the sky and brimming with joy.

This procession continues until all who have been redeemed from humanity are transformed into their new state. They fly safely above the nations below, never again to be equal to those on the ground.

Armageddon

After a time of wrath and rescue, the time comes for the final showdown between rebellious mankind and Holy Maker. By now, all who are called into the new form of humanity are united and transformed. No one else will be given this condition of perfection and invincibility. Their number is sealed for all eternity at this time.

On the ground in Israel, all the evil armies of mankind have assembled from the Mediterranean shore to the Dead Sea and Galilee. From Syria to Sinai, troops in tanks, and armored vehicles, and trenches are assembled and ready to face their Maker. Their commander, the beast called antichrist, and his false prophet have made their camp on the hill called Megiddo, at the Valley of Jezreel.

The Holy One arrives from the East and sees the armies assembled against Him on the ground. If there are aircraft, they tumble to the ground and burst into flames. The same happens to any drones in the air.

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The Commander of angel armies raises His Holy voice and utters a shout that causes men below to panic and begin to kill one another. He rains down fire from the sky that consumes them. He sends a plague, like He has already done for the previous five months of this arial campaign, that causes the people to look like corpses, with skin falling off and eyes and tongues rotting in their sockets and mouths. Even their animals suffer the same pestilence.

His wrath is given in full force in this final blast of Holy retribution and vengeance. Very few people on the earth survive. It is like the number of grapes or olives after the harvest. What used to be a planet of eight billion souls is now just a tiny fraction of that number.

All who are still alive are collected from the four corners of the world and brought to the One Who is about to sit on His throne in Jerusalem.

After all of His faithful are collected and transformed and all of His mightiest foes are vanquished, He then sets foot on the Mount of Olives, near Bethany, where He ascended two thousand years before. The Lord has finally returned to Earth. All of His holy ones are with Him.

His millennial reign is about to begin. A literal time of one thousand years of peace, prosperity, and perfect rule over imperfect people. Those who have been perfected are poised to reign with Him over the surviving few mortals that will be allowed to remain.

But first, He must decide who those fortunate few will be. They will be the ones to repopulate the planet with children who will know their God and give Him praise and worship like never before. And He will be Their God and they will feel His presence upon them. They will have their prayers answered without delay. There will be no more doubt about His love, provision, and care for them. No more mystery, no more doubt. No more wishing through faith and hope, for they will be satisfied. Only one religion will remain, and the good God will be visible, touchable, and near—never again to leave them unattended. He will speak and they will hear. He will command and they will obey. Or else.

Chapter 4 Discussion and Reflection

Questions:

1. When Jesus returns, does He come with vengeance?
2. According to the Bible (and only the Bible) when are the saints resurrected?
3. According to the Bible (and only the Bible) when are the living saints caught up (raptured) to Jesus?

Answers:

1. Yes. He returns with great wrath for the treatment of His brothers and sisters (the saints).
2. While Jesus is in the air over Earth, before touching down on the ground.
3. While Jesus is in the air over the Earth, before touching down on earth, but after the resurrection.

Reflection: If the Millennium is not literal, how can we understand anything about the End Times? How does an allegorical temple have measurements and rituals, with priests?

Chapter 5: The Millennial Life

A New Beginning

The first order of business is to decide who will remain and who must go. Jesus has all of the survivors of the apocalypse brought to Him in the land of Israel.

All are clothed, fed, and healed of their injuries, if needed. Then they are assembled to face judgment by Jesus. This is the separation of the sheep and goats. He divides them, placing some on His right and some on His left.

Those on His right are permitted to stay. Those on His left are sent away. None of them knew what to expect before His decisions were made. Nearly all are surprised at their fate. But His judgment is fair. His ruling is just.

The True “Post-Apocalyptic” World

All these years since writers and film makers have created this fictional genre, called “Post Apocalyptic”, they have had it all wrong. The true reality of life after the Great Tribulation and God’s Wrath will be heaven on Earth. Not a fictional form of Utopia, but a world of peace, family love, and no need for hope. Not that hope dies, but that it has been fulfilled—realized by all.

No more bloodshed. No more terror from unseen forces of evil. No more tyranny or oppression.

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God will be known, fully, so that faith is no longer a need. Religion will not be a matter of belief, but governance in a true theocracy. Jesus on the throne, ruling in righteousness, not with deceit or greed. And He will not rule from on high, where He is unseen. He will be in His temple in Jerusalem, here on the same earth we have now.

Construction Begins

Artisans, skilled in construction and brought from the four corners of the planet (and just bestowed pardon), are given instructions for how His city is to be laid out and built up. His new temple, larger than all the others combined, is also constructed on Jerusalem's soil, with a new plateau formed to support it.

All of Israel is laid out as foretold by His prophet, Ezekiel son of Buzi, a priest. He was beside the Kebar River in the land of the Babylonians, when he felt the hand of the Lord take hold of him.

Land Division

Unfortunately for us, the measurements he uses for the temple and land are based solely on the human body, which is anything but uniform from man to man. His measure is based on a cubit, the length from one's elbow to the tip of the longest finger. But he adds to it the breadth of a hand, which is from left to right as one looks at it with palm toward his face and fingers pointing up.

A cubit on my own arm would be 18.5 inches. And the breadth of my own palm is 3.5 inches. So if we were to use Ezekiel's cubit using my body, it would measure 22 inches in all. Some call this a "long cubit" (especially when adding the palm's width to it).

For the sake of mapping simplicity, I will err on the side of grandeur and use a cubit of 2 feet (24 inches). This choice slightly enlarges the conventional scale but allows for clarity and ease of use while avoiding underestimation. Plus, most kings (upon whose measurements the cubit was usually based) were taller than average, and I'm quite average in size.

The actual measurement Ezekiel received—defined only as "a cubit and a handbreadth" (Ezekiel 40:5)—is not anchored to any surviving physical standard. No known biblical or ancient Near Eastern cubit (such as the common 18", the Egyptian 20.6", or the Babylonian 19.8") can be definitively tied to Ezekiel's measurements by archaeology, history, or scripture. In short, **not one conventional cubit can be proven—not one.** Each convention used today to describe Ezekiel's cubit is just as made up as my own. So don't be too hard on me for making mine easy to work with.

It's important to note that Ezekiel's land divisions differ significantly from all other biblical arrangements. Unlike the irregular tribal allotments found in Joshua or the administrative districts of the monarchy, Ezekiel's layout

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presents **parallel, horizontal bands** assigned by tribe in a new configuration—distinct in geometry, tribe positioning, and temple-centric structure. This reflects a **future, divine reordering** under Messiah’s rule, not a return to any past system. So do not confuse my map shown below with other maps of other divisions. This millennial division is its own and is different from the rest given elsewhere.

This map is intended for **illustrative purposes only**. It is not a cartographical blueprint, nor does it represent a precise measurement system that could be used in the field. Jesus will not ask where Gary is to get the true layout—even though I’ll be there. Then again, maybe He’ll decide He likes my scale, since it’s a bit bigger and a bit easier for the construction crews. (Just kidding.) Or maybe it will be based on the arm that was pierced for our transgressions. (?)

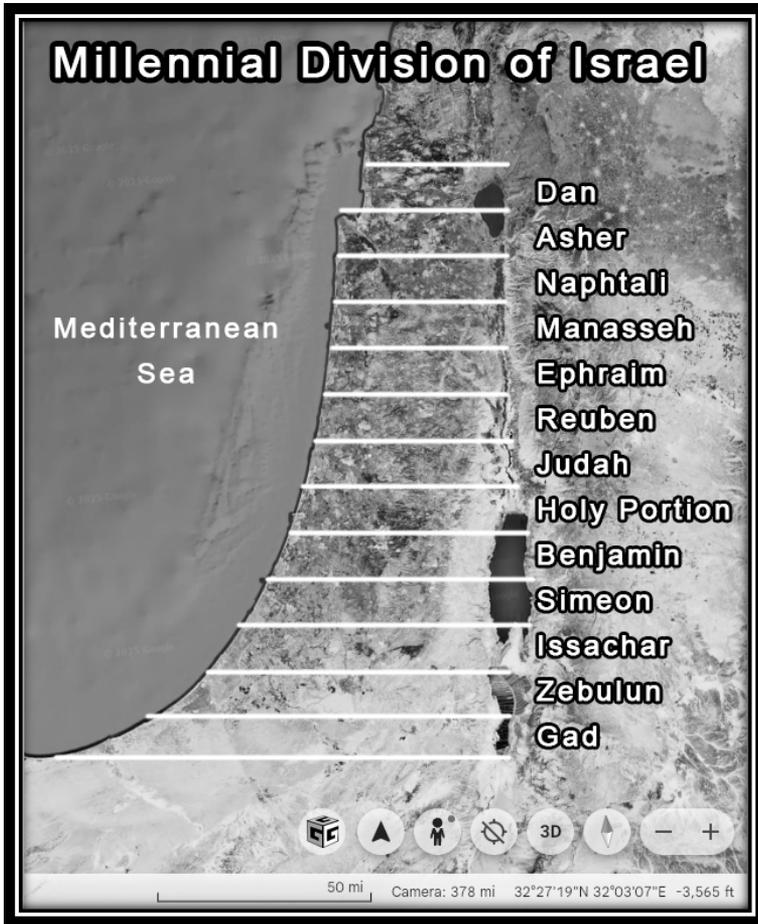
With all of that disclosed, I still think that the map shown below is more accurate than just about anything found on the internet today (at least, that I have been able to find). Most are off wildly, with just a few being fairly close to the biblical description in Ezekiel. At least I have made a concerted effort to be true to Ezekiel’s visions as given, even if exact precision is not really possible for me with the tools at my disposal.

With all of that in mind, take a look at how he describes the division of Israel in the Millennium. I’ll start with a list of the tribes and their position from North down.

Chapter 5: The Millennial Life

Here is a list of the land portions as given by Ezekiel:

- 1 **Dan** Northernmost border
- 2 **Asher**
- 3 **Naphtali**
- 4 **Manasseh** Joseph's son
- 5 **Ephraim** Joseph's other son
- 6 **Reuben**
- 7 **Judah** Just north of the holy portion
-  8 **Holy Portion** Includes the temple, city, Levites, and priests
- 9 **Benjamin** Just south of holy portion
- 10 **Simeon**
- 11 **Issachar**
- 12 **Zebulun**
- 13 **Gad** Southernmost border



The nation stretches west to east from the Mediterranean Sea (called “the Great Sea”) to the eastern bank of the Jordan River (*Ezekiel 47:13-21*).

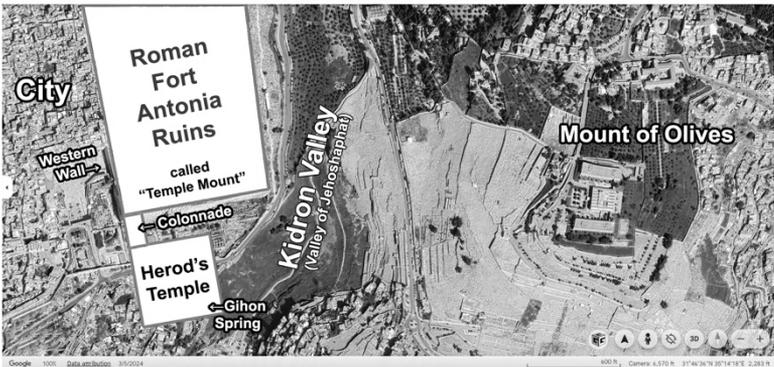
The temple is centered on Jesus’ throne, which is placed on the historic place called Mount Zion, the City of David. (*See Psalms 2:6, 9:11, 132:13-14, Isaiah 8:18, Joel*

3:17, and Micah 4:7.) So on the map, I centered it on Zion and went outward, using Ezekiel's vague measurements.

The land measures about 123 miles from north to south (61.5 to the north or the south). Each portion shown is about 9.47 miles wide, including the Holy Portion in the middle. This is where His throne will sit in His new temple.

This map shows the exact location of Zion now. It's where Herod's Temple stood, across from the Mount of Olives and over Gihon Spring. Could the Gihon be the future source of the Water of Life? Only time will tell.

— Jerusalem —



The Millennial Temple

The temple will be about 6,000 feet per side (1.136 miles, 1828.8 meters), for an area of roughly 36 million square feet (1.29 sq mi, or about 3,344,509.44 sq meters). That's one square mile. A nice size for a campus where people will gather in large numbers.

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This is much larger than the temple that Jesus and His disciples walked through. That was Herod's temple (the second one made). The first (Solomon's) was even smaller.

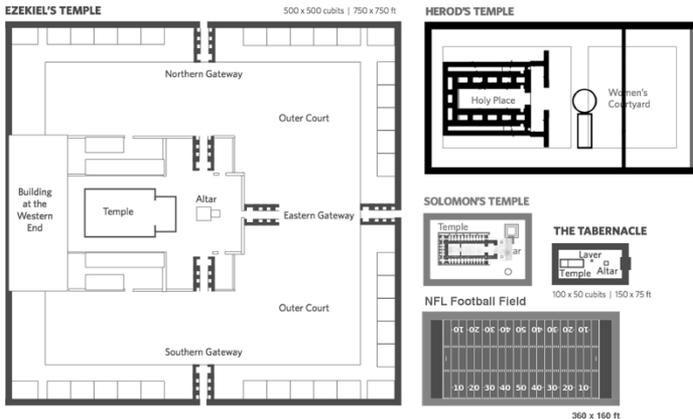
Solomon's Temple was perhaps 1 million sq. feet.

Herod's was perhaps 2,689,600 sq. feet.

The third temple has yet to be built and destroyed. It will not be standing when the Millennial temple, the fourth, is built. The third temple is just for show and a stage for End Times drama. God will not have His presence in it. He is in His saints now and forevermore. But the Millennial Temple *will* have Jesus in it.

Here is a comparison of the sizes of the various temples and the tabernacle. This image is roughly to scale.

Temple Size Comparisons



Worship and Fellowship

I see the Millennial Temple as a place of fellowship and worship for the regular folks (nations). All around the outer court's exterior walls (on the interior) are rooms for eating and gathering. Each of the four corners of the outer court has a kitchen for preparing festive meals. The rooms between the kitchens and the gates are for gathering and feasting.

Angelic Security

Each of the six gates will be guarded by angels. They post themselves inside each gate on a raised curb for a position of elevated view to observe all who pass through. No one goes in or out without their knowledge and consent.

Terraforming of the Earth

Before the temple is constructed, the land must be prepared for it. A large plateau will be built up so that the temple will sit above the surrounding terrain. (*See Isaiah 2:2, Zechariah 14:10, Psalm 68:16, Ezekiel 20:40.*) If you check the provided references, you will see that it is often referred to as a “mountain”.

Speaking of mountains, during God's wrath effected by Jesus, many mountains will fall and flatten out. Islands, which are mountains surrounded by water, will also sink. (*See Revelation 6:14, Revelation 16:20, Micah 1:3–4, Nahum 1:5, Isaiah 40:4.*) This is probably accomplished when the Mount of Olives is ripped in two on the 1,290th

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day after the Great Tribulation begins, which is 30 days into God's wrath. But this timing is not explicitly stated anywhere. It just seems very probable.

Also probable is the possibility of Christ cleansing the earth. I see deserts being turned into forests, no more pollution or radiation, and no more earthquakes occurring. Only He can steady the tectonic plates of Earth.

Millennial Rule

In reading Revelation 20, we see that the devil is imprisoned to give relief to all mortals for a thousand years. But he will be released at the end of the Millennium.

Revelation 20:¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. ² He seized the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for a thousand years. ³ The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while.

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (NLT)

As you just read, the saints are sitting on thrones and judging the nations during this period. This is one of those passages that shows how there will be those who are ruled (nations) and those who rule them (saints). And as we continue to read chapter 20, we see that the ones ruling are resurrected, which includes glorification.

Revelation 20: ⁵ This is the first resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended.) ⁶ **Blessed and holy** are those who share in the **first resurrection**. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and **will reign with him a thousand years**. (NLT)

By “first resurrection”, John means the one before the Millennium begins (supported by Paul in 1 Thess. 4). And the **second resurrection** happens just before the final judgment at the end of the Millennium (*keep reading*). See how John puts this understanding forth for us:

Revelation 20: ¹¹ And I saw a great white throne and the One sitting on it. The **earth and sky fled from His presence**, but they found no place to hide. ¹² I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were **judged according to what they had done**, as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then **death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire**. This lake of fire is the second

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death. ¹⁵ And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire. (NLT)

Did you notice how death and the grave (hades) gave up their dead? These are souls kept in hell until this time. Verse 5 said that these are “the rest of the dead” that come back to life after the thousand years have ended.

Notice that they are all judged according to what they have done (not by their faith or lack of it). This is the very same standard used in the first judgment at the start of the Millennium, called the separation of the Sheep and Goats. No one is judged who believes in Jesus. Clearly, all of these people are unbelievers.

So to put this all together, we see that the first resurrection, that Paul teaches, occurs when Christ returns. Then Satan is imprisoned at the beginning of the Millennium and released at the end. Then, after the last rebellion, all who are not glorified are judged at the Final Judgment (the Bema Seat, or White Throne Judgment).

Those who are resurrected at the return of Jesus are the saints, glorified. Those who are resurrected at the end are mortals who will remain mortal, forever.

But notice and remember, there are mortals in the Millennium who are ruled by the glorified saints. It is these mortals who rebel after Satan is released. They are the offspring of the “Sheep” who were spared a thousand years before.

Revelation 20:⁷ When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. ⁸ He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore. ⁹ And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God’s people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.

¹⁰ Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the **fiery lake of burning sulfur**, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (NLT)

See how the “beast”, antichrist, is already in the Lake of Fire before Satan? This is told in Revelation 19.

Revelation 19:¹⁹ Then I saw the beast and the kings of the world and their armies gathered together to fight against the one sitting on the horse and his army. ([This is the battle of Armageddon]) ²⁰ And the beast ([antichrist]) was captured, and with him the false prophet who did mighty miracles on behalf of the beast—miracles that deceived all who had accepted the mark of the beast and who worshiped his statue. **Both** the beast and his false prophet **were thrown alive into the fiery lake** of burning sulfur. ²¹ Their entire army was killed by the sharp sword that came from the mouth of the one riding the white horse. And the vultures all gorged themselves on the dead bodies.

When John says that the “beast and his false prophet were thrown alive into the fiery lake”, he means that they were resurrected—awake and aware of what’s happening and why. They were definitely killed at the Jezreel Valley, called Jehoshaphat by Joel (Joel 3) during the battle of Armageddon (See Ezekiel 39:4 “**You** and your army and your allies **will all die** on the mountains. I will feed you to the vultures and wild animals.” Also see 2 Thessalonians 2:8 “Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but **the Lord Jesus will slay him** with the breath of His mouth and destroy him by the splendor of His coming.”). So don’t get confused by John saying they were “alive”. Like all dead people, they were fully aware of what was happening to them because they were raised for the moment. As you should know, the soul lives on when the body dies. And the soul has awareness and continuity.

Two Forms of Humanity

One of the most interesting things about this time of Earth’s existence is how all of Adam’s children will be divided into two groups: mortal and immortal.

As already discussed, the immortals are the saints who have been glorified before the Millennium begins. And the mortals are the survivors of the apocalypse and their progeny. But what does this look like? What will be the roles of both groups? It’s time to look into this. If you have never been taught this (quite likely), then this may seem strange to you. But it is our future reality.

Saints

By now you have seen where the saints come from (*humanity*), and when they are made glorious (*when Jesus returns*). But what are they going to be doing on this planet while it is ruled by their Maker? Well, they will be ruling with Him. They will share His throne.

Revelation 3:²⁰ “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.”²¹ Those who are victorious **will sit with me on my throne**, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.”

This is far more than just “lap time”, like a child on daddy’s knee. This is sharing His authority to rule over the Earth.

When we read the account of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, we read that He is looking forward to this time and how He will share His glory with His believers. And while He shares it in this age, He will see that we will take part in the fullness of His glory when glorified. That’s what glorified means.

John 17:²² “I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one.”²³ I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.”²⁴ Father, **I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am.**

Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!” (NLT)

We will do more than just see His glory—we will have it for our own as well.

True Theocracy

This government, ruled by Christ and His glorified saints will be the world’s first and only true theocracy. A theocracy is a government ruled by divine beings.

These who share His throne are there by faith in Him, refined and proven before His millennial rule began. Once the positions are filled, no one else will join in their number.

They will rule the nations (the mortals) with truth and mercy and perfect power.

Psalm 89:¹⁴ Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne. Unfailing love and truth walk before you as attendants.

His throne is the throne of the saints. Will that not be wonderful for those who are ruled? A government that is true and gives pure justice, without corruption. How wonderful for those under this rule!

Humanity 2.0

This state of humanity who is ruling over the rest will be unlike we are now. Corruption will be impossible.

I call this elevated state of mankind “humanity 2.0”, like an upgrade from the Manufacturer. Right now, we are all in humanity 1.0—mortal, fallen, corrupt. But glorification is the upgrade we have all been desiring, whether we have known what to call it or not.

This upgrade is no small improvement. Yes, the glitches are all taken away. All the bad code is corrected. But the upgrade will include some major improvements in abilities and essence. We will be transformed into something never seen before (except in Jesus for a brief time before He left this physical realm). Yes, in the heavenly realm they have seen this kind of human, sitting on God’s glorious throne. But here on earth, for the rest of us, it is something entirely new.

Imagine first responders and judges who don’t need to discover the truth, because they automatically know it fully (imputed knowledge in all things). Imagine bodies that cannot be destroyed by anything physical or spiritual (invincibility). Imagine the ability to move mountains (telekinesis). Imagine the ability to communicate without language in any form (telepathy). Imagine the ability to go anywhere with just a thought—by anywhere, I mean *anywhere* (teleportation).

All of these abilities were either discussed by or modeled by Jesus when He was here before. Like showing up in a locked room. And don’t forget His promise that His

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followers will do the same things that He did—and even greater things.

John 14:¹² “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” (NLT)

And if we have only now realized a few of these abilities in small measure, when we share in His nature, it will be on a whole new level. And what were His works? Don't forget about the other amazing abilities:

- Speaking languages unknown to us
- Commanding demons
- Raising the dead
- Healing the sick
- Knowledge
- Prophecy

These are probably not all. They are just what has been shared in His Word to us.

Yes, Humanity 2.0 will be a truly blessed condition to be in. I personally can't wait.

The Nations

Unfortunately, not all of humanity will experience this upgrade. There will be those who could not find the faith needed for that blessing. And it only comes through faith, not by deeds (works).

But now let's look at the lives of those who missed the opportunity for that higher plane.

In Isaiah 65, we see what it will be like for them long after the Millennium is over. But since that time of a thousand years is like a "dress rehearsal" for the New Earth, we can still know what to expect life to be like in the next age.

Isaiah 65:²⁰ "No longer will babies die when only a few days old.

No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life.

No longer will people be considered old at one hundred!

Only the cursed will die that young!

²¹ In those days people will live in the houses they build and eat the fruit of their own vineyards.

²² Unlike the past, invaders will not take their houses and confiscate their vineyards.

For my people will live as long as trees,
and my chosen ones will have time to enjoy their hard-won gains.

²³ They will not work in vain,
and their children will not be doomed to misfortune.

For they are people blessed by the Lord,
and their children, too, will be blessed.

²⁴ I will answer them before they even call to me.
While they are still talking about their needs,
I will go ahead and answer their prayers!" (NLT)

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And these people are just as we are now—mortal.

Only those who allow corruption to rule them will die. They will not die young, so that they have plenty of time to repent (turn from their wicked thoughts and ways). They will be eating from the Tree of Life and drinking the Water of Life, which keeps their bodies fit and healthy and strong. This means that some will live indefinitely.

No longer will nation fight against nation. War, hunger, strife, rampant crime, and pestilence will never be seen again. This is what we call “heaven”. And it will be on this Earth for as long as it lasts (until the final judgment).

All forms of incarceration will likely be a thing of the past. Instead of being confined to a prison cell, those who break the law will be found out instantly and will have to immediately pay for their crimes. This allows for life to never be put on hold—which would not be good for the soul. No, this kind of justice is swift and honorable and humane—a very good way to live.

The Final Rebellion

One aspect of the Millennium that absolutely helped me to understand this new doctrine is the rebellion shown in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 20:⁷ When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. ⁸ He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for

battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore. ⁹ And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God’s people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them. (NLT)

When I read this before, thinking at the time that all people in the Millennium would be glorified, I knew that something was off in that mindset. I wondered, how could a perfect saint rebel against our Lord? It made no sense to me. So this was very important in the formation of this doctrine.

Gog and Magog

Some Bible commentators say that this is the same Gog and Magog as in Ezekiel. Well, that does not hold water. There are several reasons why.

4. Gog is a human being. He is killed at the battle of Armageddon. This is shown clearly in many scriptures.
5. Magog is a certain place. It is now called the Caucasus—a region between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea.
6. Since Gog is human, and mankind only gets one life to live, the Bible forbids him being at both Armageddon and millennial Israel.
7. It is completely logical and in good literary style to use the previous massive rebellion as a type for the final rebellion. An analogy.

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Therefore, when John mentions Gog and Magog, it is just a symbolic harkening back to that previous battle to illustrate the magnitude and severity of it. That's all. Any other explanation is, to me, nonsensical.

Why Allow It?

While I'm not privy to God's inner motives, I can only suggest a guess.

When we look at the entirety of this earthly experience of living as humans, I see that we have been under a kind of test. The test is to see if we will accept God or reject God. Will we obey or disobey? Will we follow or go another way.

God created all people with their own will. We all have the ability to love or hate. We all get to choose our position, our attitude, our desires and worldview. This is an essential element to our essence. Without it, our "love" or "submission" would be as meaningless as that of a robot, controlled by its programming.

So why allow this satanic influence at the end of a Utopian life on a world ruled directly by God? I think it is to have one final weeding out of those who need to be dismissed.

When you think about it, before this time, man has always had the devil in his ear (from the very beginning). So the question needs to be answered as to how will man react without the influence of Satan.

And whatever you may say about God's methods, you must admit that He always covers the options. He always gives us enough rope to hang ourselves. He always makes it impossible for anyone to make excuses. This last rebellion will check all of the necessary boxes at the final judgment.

It's that final removal of the dross that floats to the top of the crucible, so to speak.

Effect on Animals

Another interesting aspect of the Millennium is how animals will no longer be killing, maiming, and devouring each other. And those who say that we are already in the millennial period should take note of this, since it is obviously not the current situation.

As we saw a few pages back, Isaiah tells us that, "The wolf and the lamb will feed together. The lion will eat hay like a cow." If you have seen this throughout the world as the status quo, without exception, then you might have an argument that we are in a different age than our current age. But since it is definitely not happening, we can safely say that we are still in the age before the Millennium.

Here is all of Isaiah chapter 11 for context. It is definitely in the Millennium.

Isaiah 11:¹ Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot—
yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.

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² And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³ He will delight in obeying the Lord.

He will not judge by appearance
nor make a decision based on hearsay.

⁴ He will give justice to the poor

and make fair decisions for the exploited.

The earth will shake at the force of his word,

and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked.

⁵ He will wear righteousness like a belt

and truth like an undergarment.

⁶ In that day the wolf and the lamb will live
together;

the leopard will lie down with the baby goat.

The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion,

and a little child will lead them all.

⁷ The cow will graze near the bear.

The cub and the calf will lie down together.

The lion will eat hay like a cow.

⁸ The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra.

Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly
snakes without harm.

⁹ Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,

for as the waters fill the sea,

so the earth will be filled with people who know
the Lord.

- ¹⁰ In that day the heir to David's throne
will be a banner of salvation to all the world.
The nations will rally to him,
and the land where he lives will be a glorious place.
- ¹¹ In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time
to bring back the remnant of his people—
those who remain in Assyria and northern Egypt;
in southern Egypt, Ethiopia, and Elam;
in Babylonia, Hamath, and all the distant coastlands.
- ¹² He will raise a flag among the nations
and assemble the exiles of Israel.
He will gather the scattered people of Judah
from the ends of the earth.
- ¹³ Then at last the jealousy between Israel and Judah
will end.
They will not be rivals anymore.
- ¹⁴ They will join forces to swoop down on Philistia to the
west.
Together they will attack and plunder the nations to the
east.
They will occupy the lands of Edom and Moab,
and Ammon will obey them.
- ¹⁵ The Lord will make a dry path through the gulf of the
Red Sea.
He will wave his hand over the Euphrates River,
sending a mighty wind to divide it into seven streams
so it can easily be crossed on foot.
- ¹⁶ He will make a highway for the remnant of his people,

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the remnant coming from Assyria,
just as he did for Israel long ago
when they returned from Egypt. (NLT)

As you just read, all animals will live in harmony with each other and mankind. We know that it is in the millennial reign of Christ because that is when He brings all Jews to Israel to live together.

God's Actions—Not Man's

Those who follow and teach the doctrine called “Post Millennialism” say that it is up to people to make the world a better place, and then (only then) Jesus will return to Earth. This is not supported by the Bible at all. In fact, all teaching from the Bible shows that it is God's doing to restore the planet, not ours.

I know that it all sounds very nice and gives people a goal to work for and all that. But no matter how inspirational it might be for some, no matter how nice of a sentiment it may put forth, it is not biblical at all. And so it should be rejected by the Church.

In fact, the Church should indeed strive for making the world a better place to live in. We should work very hard toward peace and brotherly love. But let's do so with the right mindset that is not caught up in false doctrine.

Let us trust in Christ to do exactly what He promised, when and how and why He has said. Let His words and heart be true to guide our own.

The Final Judgment

Once the last rebellion is squashed, the Lord will sit on His great white throne, called the Bema Seat. This is the last event of His Millennial reign.

The thousand years have come to an end and the next age is about to begin. But first He must again separate the people into two groups: those whose names are in the Book of Life, and those who are destined for destruction.

For this to happen, He must first raise the dead from the grave (sheol, or hades). This includes those who were kept in the confines of hell.

These are “the rest of the dead”, who come to life in Revelation 20:5. They are brought before the Lamb to be judged for everything they did in their lives.

Revelation 20:¹¹ And I saw a great white throne and the One sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from His presence, but they found no place to hide. (NLT)

Yes, heaven and Earth disappear. This broken planet will be no more after the Millennium. Neither will hell or even heaven continue to exist. Both will be gone forever.

Revelation 20:¹² I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. (NLT)

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These standing before the throne for judgment are not saints. There is no judgment for those who believe (John 3:18). So, in my mind, this is not even up for debate.

But what I want to know is if some who have been tormented by their life of sin and shame have repented sufficiently to be allowed to live in the New Earth that is about to be revealed. Now, maybe they were not in hell, maybe there was a different place for them in the spirit realm to await this time. I don't know.

But I do have a hope that some who are judged in this final judgment will be allowed to live on, under the rule of Him Who sits on the throne. They will not be saints, that number is filled. But maybe they will live as mortals, taking in the fruit from the Tree of Life and the Water of Life. These elements will sustain their mortal flesh indefinitely, as long as they do not allow their hearts to grow cold and their rebellion to rule them. If not, then these would not be said to be "of life".

And even if they retain their sin nature, they will be subjected to the iron-scepter rule of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:²⁵ For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. ²⁶ And the last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For the Scriptures say, "God has put all things under his authority." (Of course, when it says "all things are under his authority," that does not include God himself, who gave Christ his authority.) ²⁸ Then, when all things are under his authority,

the Son will put himself under God’s authority, so that God, who gave his Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere. (NLT)

And so, when we step into the New Earth, this is how it will be. Whether glorified saints, faithful angels, or subdued human beings, all creation will be under His firm command.

The Lake of Fire

I see much confusion about the Lake of Fire, or Lake of Burning Sulfur. It is not like hell. Hell has been eliminated from the creation (Revelation 20). It is an eternal condition, where the worm (or maggot) does not die and the fire is never quenched (Mark 9:48).

This is called “hell” in some translations, but the actual word used by Jesus is “Gehenna”, which is not the same as the temporary hell of our age and the next. It is only for the final age, the eternal one. Gehenna is forever, hell is not.

But where is Gehenna?

To answer this question, we go to the very passage that Jesus was quoting when He said this in Mark 9:48—Isaiah 66:24.

Isaiah 66:²² “As surely as my **new heavens and earth** will remain,
so will you always be my people,

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with a name that will never disappear,”
says the Lord.

²³ “All humanity will come to worship me
from week to week
and from month to month.

²⁴ **And as they go out, they will see
the dead bodies** of those who have rebelled against me.
**For the worms that devour them will never die,
and the fire that burns them will never go out.**
**All who pass by
will view them with utter horror.”** (NLT)

This passage says to me that the place called Gehenna will be visible to those who are on the New Earth. The Jewish nation will continue to exist on this New Earth. The New Jerusalem will exist on the New Earth. And Gehenna will exist on the New Earth.

So, where is the Lake of Burning Fire? It would seem to be on the New Earth, near the New Jerusalem, where people who have left the city can see those who are in torment there. Likely as a deterrent to ever go against the Mighty Lord and His Law.

I know, this is not what you’ve been told your whole life in whatever church you attend. Me either. But when we let the Word of God speak, this is what we hear.

For whatever reason or chain of events, the mainstream understanding of man has taken the clear teaching of God and contorted it into something else. The

simple teachings have been made complicated and the more detailed and even difficult ones have been over simplified.

Most of the world has in their heads a binary, overly pixelated view of “heaven and hell”. They seem to see the eternal as either black or white, without any clue of the grey in between. But when we take the full counsel of God as given in His Holy Word, we have the opportunity to see the whole picture. We can see that there are two kinds of people living in the eternal realm—not that they are all eternal, but that the realm is eternal. And as you have seen by now in this presentation, the two kinds of humanity are mortal and immortal. This goes on and on, after the Millennium, into the New Earth.

Remember what we saw in Isaiah 65—only the cursed will die at the “young” age of 100. And here in Isaiah 66, we learn that those cursed ones will be visible to the others as they suffer in their torment.

This is not easy to understand, I admit. It took me years to wrap my own head around it. But that is only because my head was already filled with false notions that are either overly simplistic or convoluted by the musings of men. But now, in the last days, the Lord is beginning to open our minds to the reality that we have not seen up until this time.

When we read that there will be no more tears in the new creation, called “heaven”, we should pay attention to exactly where the tears never fall. As I search the scriptures

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and read this, I see that it is in the New Jerusalem, specifically, where the tears do not fall. Not, necessarily in the rest of the New Earth.

When we look at the Tabernacle and the four Temples on this planet, we see the Holy of Holies, a special place where the Lord dwells.

It is my belief that this Holy of Holies is realized in the New Jerusalem. In all of the Temples, the Holy of Holies is shaped in the form of a cube. It is as tall as it is square. Well, as we are about to see, this is the same shape of the New Jerusalem. And if the New Jerusalem is the final Holy of Holies, then it makes perfect sense that it will have no sorrow or pain.

Matthew 5:¹⁸ I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved.

Chapter 5 Discussion and Reflection

Questions:

1. What will the true post-apocalyptic world be like?
 - Horrific
 - Best time on Earth
2. Who is Gog?
 - A man or a symbol
 - Antichrist or someone else
3. What's the difference between the Lake of Fire and hell?
 - Which is eternal
 - Which is temporary

Answers:

1. Best time on Earth
2. A man; the antichrist
3. The Lake of Fire is eternal; hell is not

Reflection: Can a Muslim, Jew, or Hindu who does not believe in Jesus be in the Eternal Kingdom of God, if they are good to God's people? (*See Matthew 25*)

Chapter 6: The New Creation

So now it's time to look at the final age of the human experience. The eternal age.

But first, let's take just a moment to look back at our journey on this broken planet. These are eras, or ages, not "dispensations" (let that word disappear from your End Times vocabulary).

Summary of Earth

Pre-Flood

When the world was made, God put mankind in the Garden of Eden. All of their needs were met and they walked with God in the cool of the day in their beautiful home. They were as innocent and naked as children.

But then they disobeyed the Creator and the vibe was lost. They took fruit from the one tree they were told not to (out of hundreds of others). Luckily, they did not eat from the Tree of Life. That would have sealed their fallen condition forever.

It is through death of the physical body that the spiritual man can live (under the right conditions and provisos). This is why the angels were not ever offered the redemption that we people have been given.

But in short order—1656 years, to be exact (the lifespans of just two men: Adam and Methuselah)—

mankind had reached a point where enough was enough. God's patience wore thin and He had to act.

The Flood

In two of my other books, I discuss the Flood in great detail. It was not what you think it was.

For the whole story on this, I recommend reading either *This Broken Planet*, or *The Broken Planet Model*. The former is a bit more polemic and surficial, while the latter is deeper in the weeds of science and not as harsh toward the mainstream. Both are available for free on my website: GaryTheGospelGuy.com. Just look for "Books by Gary" in the drop-down menu.

The Flood was a year-long event that transformed this world from the comfortable, plentiful, life-sustaining habitat we need, into the harsh, unforgiving, and dangerous place of today.

Before the Flood there were no continents, only a single planet-wide surface, with shallow seas, lakes, and rivers. Forests and jungles and other biomes filled with life stretched for staggering distances the size of our continents today. There were no wastelands, soaring mountains, or plunging canyons. Weather was always mild, from pole to pole, with very little variation in pressure, temperature, or any other factor to create harsh conditions.

It was perfect "birthday suit" weather all the time, all over the world.

The abundance of life would have been mind-blowing to behold for us now.

But the important thing about the Flood was that it was judgment. The first worldwide judgment upon all flesh at the same time. This was a unique situation that has never been repeated (just as promised—with a rainbow).

Literally every condition or phenomenon about geology, hydrology, meteorology, and even some dealing with astronomy (Earth and lunar orbits), are explained by this worldwide event.

Why does the world cant off-axis, giving us seasons? Why are there continents and deep, salty oceans? Why is the magnetosphere degrading? Why are there so many ethnicities and languages? Why are there fossils and fossil fuels? What created tectonic plates from a perfect world? Where is the evidence of this Extinction Level Event? What caused the Ice Age? All of these questions and more are answered with reason, logic, and evidence in both books (*The Broken Planet Model* is the more scientific of the two).

This new Flood model is nothing like you've ever seen before. I guarantee it.

The Current Age

The age we are living in now began when Noah and his family exited the Ark, some 4,300 years ago. It started

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with the small family growing into a large city in Mesopotamia. They all had one language and one faith.

But that was shattered when they were divided by God. By introducing different languages, He split them up and sent them all around the world—very quickly.

While Shem (Noah's middle son) was still alive, Abraham grew into an adult who was touched by God. He traveled to the new promised land, where his grandson (Israel) would take up residence with his 12 tribes of offspring through two wives and two surrogates.

Through this family line, the Messiah—Savior of mankind—would be born. Jesus came to teach, to love, and to do what only He could—make amends to the Father for our rebellious hearts. And if we will only believe Him and follow Him (in true repentance) then we will be raised up to His level of perfection in glory when He returns.

But He did not stay. He did what He had to (die on the cross for our sins) and then He went back to the Spirit Realm from which He came. And that is where He has been for about 2,000 years now.

The Millennial Age

But very soon He will return to us. That is what I have been going on about in this little book. However, His return will begin the next age in our human saga—The Millennium. We just covered that in some detail in the previous chapter.

That, as you read, will be a literal one thousand years of great prosperity and loving family life all over the world, as the nations are led and governed by Jesus and His faithful ones. They are transformed due to their faith, not their deeds. We call that “the Gospel”. And since that conversion during His wrath, no one else will be transformed into that condition.

But under them, in the hierarchy of mankind will be the mortals, called the nations. They, unfortunately, did not carry the faith that the saints have. But they are not sent away for their lack of faith, as many today teach. They have a chance at life in God’s kingdom by way of their kindness to others (*see the separation of the sheep and goats and the books of life*). Whether they stay or go is up to Jesus, the Righteous Judge and His grace and mercy. They are judged according to their deeds.

In some ways, this era or age is a return to the first chapter in the garden. We will be allowed to eat from the Tree of Life and drink the Water of Life for our bodies to be sustained indefinitely. That prohibition is final removed.

And as we saw, there are two such judgments: one at the beginning of the next age and one at the end of it. After that is the New Earth, the final age of mankind.

The Final Age

The last chapter of man’s story will be very much like the last chapter of the millennial age. Only, it will take

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place on a new stage. A new habitat. A new heavens and a new earth. That is what this final chapter will discuss in some detail.

And while there are many similarities in the Millennium and the New Earth, one big difference is clear—permanence. The temporary condition of hell is replaced with the permanent Lake of Fire. The temporary state of “heaven” is replaced with permanent mortality or immortality. The temporary millennial temple is replaced with the eternal city, New Jerusalem. And while Satan’s imprisonment was temporary in the millennial age, his destruction will be permanent in the final age.

Faith is Obsolete

As we saw in the Millennium, faith remains moot. There is no longer a need for believing in a God we cannot see, feel, or hear, since He will be seen, felt, and heard by all people forevermore. And I am not referring to the saints. I mean that all mortals will know their God and will have a firm connection to Him.

Isaiah 65:²⁴ I will answer them before they even call to me.

While they are still talking about their needs,
I will go ahead and answer their prayers! (NLT)

Reading chapter 65 from verse 17 on, we see a world that we have always wanted to live in. I know I have.

But since attainment to sainthood (the highest form of life) comes through faith, there is no longer that offer.

Punishment

On the flip side of the reward/punishment coin is the punishment. In the final age, where all things are permanent, punishment will still exist. It is one way that all things are brought under subjection to Christ (1 Corinthians 15:28). That is a permanent condition. Once He takes direct control of the affairs of men, He never loses that control.

And as already discussed, I see the Lake of Fire (the eternal state of punishment) being present on the planet where all can observe exactly what it is. (*See Isaiah 66:24*) And this should be expected in a perfect world where there are no surprises.

But before the rebellion or sin of the mortals ever gets to that point, they have had the very Spirit of God leading them into righteous living. They have had the example and counsel of the holy saints in their midst. They have lived in a world where righteousness is not just prevalent and modeled, but it is expected of every single person. It is the normal way of living. And if they do slip up, then they will know what they need to do for reparations or atonement. It will not be imprisonment, it will be rapid justice with immediate consequences and results.

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Gone will be the negative influences in their lives, such as hardship (seclusion, famine, starvation, harsh weather). Gone will be their enemies, both seen and unseen: marauders, thieves, demons, warfare

Present will be positive influences in their lives: wise counsel, forgiveness, joy, holy governance, perfect, pleasant weather, perfect health, certainty, fellowship....

In short, everyone will know just what is expected of them and they will have all the support they need to live it out.

Relationships

I cannot say if there will be the languages we have today in that new world. I do know that the saints will not need language, since they will be able to communicate without words. (I'm not sure how I know that, I just do.)

However, I fully expect the ethnicities to persist. And I expect there to be a full array of cultures on the New Earth. I think this because of Revelation 21.

Revelation 21:²⁴ The nations will walk in its light, and the kings of the world will enter the city in all their glory. (NLT)

And every nation will look like Isaiah shows us in chapter 65—long family lines of happy, prosperous people.

This makes me expect the New Earth to be a vibrant, thriving world with diversity and harmony that we can only dream of today in this broken world.

And don't count out the animals either. Pets and other animals will all be peaceful and play nicely with each other and us. Maybe He'll even bring back the dinosaurs and other extinct creatures. That would be neat.

“Jimmy, go hitch up the wagon to the triceratops. We're gonna go visit your cousins!”

Have fun with it.

Saints and Nations

Of course, the saints will be around as well. Like wise counsellors and magistrates. Only they will be on another level altogether in their knowledge, abilities, and presence.

I see each saint having an area of jurisdiction over the nations but still maintaining an apartment in the Holy City. And when they go there for celebrations and to praise the Lamb Who sits on the throne, they might stay at their saint's home while in the City.

That would be a good time for all, like family get-togethers at the ancestral vacation spot or timeshare. All get to spend time with others from different parts of the world, enjoying annual fellowship with those they only see at

those times. And speaking of the Holy City, let me share a bit of how I view that amazing structure.

The New Jerusalem

Imagine, standing at the corner of the great city, looming up out of sight before you into the sky.

Immediately before your eyes would be the bottom layer of the great foundation of the Holy City. It has 12 different layers, bringing a rainbow of color to the landscape.

Remember that it is lighted from within, since that is where the Lamb's throne is. His glory passes through all matter, unlike the weak light we experience in this physical realm today.

I see the foundation as being made up of 12 precious gemstones. One per layer. But when I imagine this, I see a single solid slab of one gemstone per layer. I cannot say what the thickness is—1 mile per stone or 10 miles per stone? Whatever the thickness, the stones are roughly 1,380 miles per side in a perfect square! And these are just the foundation of the great city. What if they were each 10 miles tall, giving a foundation that is 120 miles high, and shining out in a rainbow of color across the sky? Seeing such a sight would cause human words to fail.

And upon that foundation is the city itself, with walls 216 feet (66 meters) thick and made of the purest crystal. Clear rock upon a rainbow of translucent rock.

As to height and length, the city upon this foundation is a perfect cube. Each side is the same length as the foundations (1,380 miles, or about 2,221 kilometers). That's about the distance from Albuquerque to Chicago. Such height might just be out of sight for mortal eyes. And if you were that tall, the international space station in orbit today would hit you below the knees! (*See Revelation 21.*)

Due to the massive size and weight of this rock city, I expect the New Earth to be several times the size of our little blue planet today. Is it the size of Jupiter, or the Sun? Otherwise, a little planet like ours would likely wobble from the sheer weight of it.

Inside, streets and buildings are made of gold as pure as glass. Not as clear as glass, but as pure as glass. Shining, shimmering gold, backlit with the glory of God Himself!

In the middle of the city is His golden throne. From the throne comes the spring of the River of Life. It passes through the city, lined with Trees of Life, bearing fruit in 12 varieties.

The beauty of this glimmering city cannot be captured adequately in the tongues of men.

The New Earth

As just mentioned, the New Earth must, by necessity, be huge. Much, much larger than what we are living on now.

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But here's something that I'll bet you won't hear anywhere else. I think I know what the geophysical composition of the new planet might be.

How do I know this? Well, I don't know for sure, but if it's like the current Earth when it was first formed (before the Flood), then I can make an informed guess.

This is because the Lord gave me a vision back in 2023 of our Earth now. I discuss this in the two books mentioned earlier on the Great Flood. He showed me the internal layers of it. It was quite the vision.

So, going off of that vision of this Earth, I surmise that the New Earth, if the same, will have no deep oceans, just a continuous land mass with some freshwater seas, lakes, and rivers. Beneath that surface will be a layer of water, several miles thick. Beneath that would be the nuclear-powered heater that keeps the surface a lovely constant temperature all over the planet without any harsh weather anywhere, any time at all.

This means, no continents to divide up the nations. No bad weather. Constant temperatures, and slightly humid. I call it perfect "birthday suit" weather.

All of these conditions will come together to provide a very lovely habitat for humanity.

The New Heavens

In the Bible, “heavens” is a funny word. It can mean three different things: the atmosphere; outer space; and the “third heaven”, or the Spirit Realm.

To which of these was John referring in Revelation 21:1? Why not all three?

As just discussed, the **atmosphere** would be made new again, just like it was in the beginning on this broken planet. So, that would be new.

Will there be a new **solar system**? I think there will be. In fact, I’m going to go on about this quite a bit in a moment. But for now, let’s just say that since there will be no sun, moon, or stars to give light to the world, it is highly likely that the cosmos will get a make-over.

As to the new “third heaven” that Paul mentioned (2 Corinthians 12:2), it seems that it will no longer be needed. After all, the saints have been glorified by then (1,000 years earlier) and the nations will all be on Earth. Hell is gone and “heaven” is the New Jerusalem. So the spirit realm will likely be unified with the physical realm, just as the saints will be both spirit and physical, in a new form of life. Why not a new form of physical and spiritual realms combined too?

The New “Solar System”

Now we get to some fun stuff. This is not going to be a dogmatic attempt to impress anyone. This is just me sharing what I see when I think about this. Take it or leave it as you wish. Or have fun with it, like me.

What if the Sun were replaced by the New Earth as the center of the new “solar system”? After all, Jesus is in the New Jerusalem, which is absolutely huge, requiring a huge planet to house it. He is shining with glory that outshines the Sun we are orbiting now. Think of it. But His light is easy on the eyes.

Now also consider this: if people are living indefinitely, and still raising families, then the planet will someday become overrun with peeps. I mean, it might take a long time but it seems inevitable, doesn't it?

So then, what if the solution is creating a new system of planets based on what we are in now? I mean, let's have the New Earth where the Sun is (at the center), and other planets orbiting around that New Earth.

The light is seen by all but it doesn't hurt the eyes to look at it. In fact, on one of those other planets, call them small earths, one could use a telescope and gaze at the beautiful City when it comes into view. And what a sight that would be! A glimmer of shining gold upon a rainbow of color. I'd not want miss to it every time it comes into view.

And are those little earths like the nations of today? Each with its own culture and ethnicities? Is each of them ruled by a saint or group of saints? Do the saints travel by teleportation between the planets? Do the nations take a ride on a spaceship to visit the Holy City? This could be like Gene Roddenbery's vision (Star Trek), but without other races (except angels) or any evil presence anywhere in the cosmos. I think that would be worth living in, don't you?

Lots of little earths orbiting the big earth. Interplanetary travel. Vacations on other worlds....How fun!

“What heats those planets?” you scientists may ask (since His glory does not give off heat like the Sun).

“The composition of the planets already described.” I'd reply. Each one is heated by a fusion core with a water layer between the heater and the surface for efficient and even distribution of the heat to the surface.

Do the spacecraft enter the Holy City through the top (which might be above the atmosphere)? Is the new cosmos as vast as the one we are in now?

Are you beginning to see how our idea of “heaven” might be a tad short of the reality of it all? Can you see how it might not be the boring, ethereal, and vague construct we've been spoon-fed for millennia now?

Open your mind to the possibilities that exist within the teaching and revelation of scripture. This idea is not

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antichrist or antibiblical. It's just supposing, based on what we already know.

Creations?

Here's another thought, just for fun. All of that which I just described would be in THIS creation. But what if God has other creations, besides this one? Is there anything in the Bible to say that there aren't? I haven't found it.

Is Jesus our Creator and Savior? 100%. Yes! Is He our Lord of lords and King of kings? Absolutely! Is He God in human flesh? You bet He is!

Are there other creations in existence, outside of this creation? ... [crickets] ... Why not?

Is there only One God? **YES!** If other creations were made by Him, is He the God of those as well? He'd have to be. There is no God besides our God.

Could any of those other creations have God's presence in them like ours does? I'd imagine so. Are they superior to us in some ways? Could be. Are they inferior to us in some way? Maybe (less likely though, if you ask me).

Are there other inhabited planets in this cosmos? I don't believe so. But I DO say that there may be other creations with their own physical and spirit realms.

This is not New Age gobbledygook. It's just me supposing, while giving God His due supremacy.

Creatures

What if these other creations exist in the millions? And each of them has its own kind of creatures? Are they all like us? Human? I think they might be. Are any of them far superior to us in spiritual righteousness? I could see that being a thing. What if some creations have only benevolent creatures? What if they are so holy and good it would be like meeting Jesus, Himself? What if they are ancient beyond our ability to imagine?

If these creatures are out there. And who can say they aren't? Then maybe, just maybe, the saints will have the opportunity to meet some of them when we are mature enough for the meeting. I'd be nervous but it could be fun. Maybe my best friend is out there in one of those creations.

I don't know about you, but this all boggles the mind in my head.

If you're an author or film maker, why not explore this as a new genre of benevolent creations and a new solar system here in our own new cosmos? I'll buy the book and see the movie. And don't be afraid to explore the next age—the Millennium on this planet. Let's not have our shirts stuffed so tight that we can't think outside the mainstream box, while staying true to the Bible. Let's all loosen up a little bit and have some fun. Just don't go off the rails when the Bible *does* tell us something. Be true to what we do know and gracious about what we do not.

Conclusion

I have given you a few things to think about here in this small book. I've shown how not everything we get from the Church is solid and biblical. But this is not to invite criticism of anyone, just to help to stretch our own minds a tad.

Look into the things I have put forth here and see if they contradict a clear, clean teaching of truth in the Bible.

Use the best logic you can muster and use all the tools at your disposal for deep Bible study (interlinear translations, concordances, and the like). Pray about everything I have given you to contemplate here. Especially before coming after me with pitchforks and torches.

Take everything you read or hear (present work included) with a grain of salt (or a salt block). Be a Berean and search the scriptures daily for insights into “new” doctrines. Did I mention to pray? I did, well, pray some more. Don't stop seeking the Lord and His righteousness. Get into your Bible on a regular schedule (daily, works).

And for the love of God, get out there and share the love of God with everyone you can. What else is there to do that matters eternally? Once you get used to it, it becomes second nature and is very rewarding—eternally so.

Be blessed. ~ Gary

Chapter 6 Discussion and Reflection

Questions:

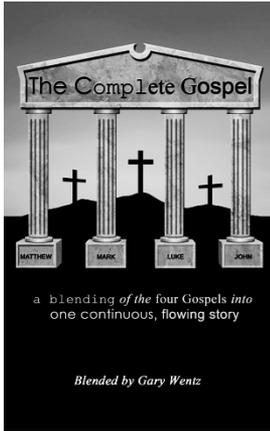
1. Will there be a new earth and a new heavens?
2. What are the heavens?
3. Is the New Jerusalem too big for our Earth here?

Answers:

1. Yes. (*See Revelation 21 and Isaiah 65*)
2. Atmosphere
Outer space
The Third Heaven
3. I think so. It would make this planet wobble.

Reflection: What's your view of "heaven"? Is it exciting, boring, fun, no fun? What does it look like? Where is it—on a physical planet or in the ether?

Other books by Gary

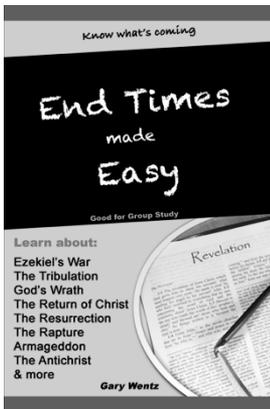


The Complete Gospel – a blending of the four Gospels into one continuous, flowing story

A single-source book that you can hand to anyone and share the Gospel with them – the Gospel, the whole Gospel, and nothing but the Gospel. It reads like no other book, due to the different fonts used to show exactly which Gospel the text came

from. Hopefully, there is nothing added to or taken away from the four narratives of Jesus' first advent.

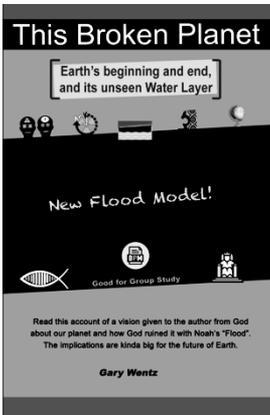
This book is not meant to replace the Word of God; only present it in a different way that shows the continuity of the four Gospels. It could even be useful for study.



End Times Made Easy

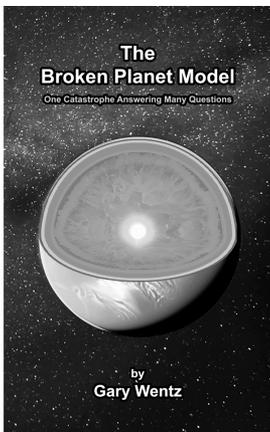
A deeper dive into the End Times than *Sheep to Nations*.

Gary simply shows what the Bible says about this highly debated topic by cutting through the nonsense. See how he unlocks a method that anyone can use to come to the truth as he did.



This Broken Planet
[Earth's beginning and end, and its unseen Water Layer]

Gary's first book on Noah's Flood. It's a totally different read than *The Broken Planet Model*—less scientifically focused and a bit more polemic, while not being a diatribe. It was the first book on the subject.



The Broken Planet Model

A deeper dive into the vision and geophysics model given to Gary by God in 2023. It's more scientific and detailed than *This Broken Planet*, but it covers the same topic. If you want to know everything about Noah's Flood, this is your resource. It's more of a college level read.

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