

CORNERSTONE
Bible Church

Theology for LIFE

LESSON #13: ESCHATOLOGY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lesson #13: Eschatology.....	page 3
Introduction.....	page 5
1A: Reasons to Study Prophecy.....	page 5
2A: The Abuse of Bible Prophecy.....	page 9
3A: The Interpretation of Prophecy.....	page 12
4A: End Time Viewpoints.....	page 14
5A: A Chronology of End Times Events.....	page 17
6A: The Rapture.....	page 21
7A: The Tribulation.....	page 26
8A: The Second Coming.....	page 28
9A: Millennium.....	page 32
10A: Hope!.....	page 35

ESCHATOLOGY

Lesson #13

A COURSE TAUGHT BY PASTOR CARY GREEN

"A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do."

C. S. Lewis

–INTRODUCTION

Eschatology is an area of doctrine where views vary widely—even among conservative evangelicals.

Our goal is to present a concise, yet comprehensive overview of End Times doctrine.

This timeline of End Times events is based on a literal (or “plain sense”) interpretation of prophecy, unless it’s clearly symbolic, in which case we have sought to provide the clear meaning of the symbol.

1A: Reasons to Study Prophecy

1B. God of prophecy

We worship a God of _____!

Isaiah 46:9-11

9 “... I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me,
10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, ‘My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure;’

11 ... Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. **I have planned it, surely I will do it.”**

2B. God’s sovereignty

Psalms 103:19

19 The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and **His sovereignty rules over all.**

When we see Bible prophecy fulfilled, we're reminded that God is in full control of history (Psa. 2).

3B. Validation of the Bible

The Bible is the only Book in the world that contains _____ of already fulfilled, verifiable prophecies. Fulfilled prophecies prove that the Bible is God's revelation to man (Isa. 37:26).

4B. Quantity of prophecy

Between one-fourth and one-third of the Bible is prophetic in nature. Should all that be ignored?

The Apostle Paul wrote:

1 Thessalonians 5:20

Do not despise prophecies. (NKJV)

5B. Validation of Jesus as God

An angel told the Apostle John that prophecy is a witness of Jesus' divinity (Rev. 19:10). Jesus fulfilled _____ separate prophecies in His First Coming. The odds of anyone doing that accidentally is beyond the realm of probability.

6B. Tool of evangelism

The first Gospel sermon ever preached—by Peter on the Day of Pentecost—was based on Bible prophecy (Acts 2:14-36). Philip the Evangelist used Bible prophecy to share the Gospel with the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-39).

7B. Tool of teaching

The Biblical prophets didn't spend all their time talking about the future. They spent much _____ time applying the Word of God to the contemporary problems of their day (e.g., idolatry—Isa. 44:9-20; Jer. 10:1-16; hypocrisy—Jer. 7:8-11; Amos 5:21-24).

8B. Stimulus for growth

When believers realize that Jesus is returning to this earth, and that His return could occur any moment, those truths should result in spiritual preparation (Rom. 13:11-14; 1 Tim. 6:11-16; Tit. 2:11-14; 1 Pet. 4:7-13).

9B. Current events

One of the most important reasons for studying Bible prophecy is that it contains _____ indicating the season of the Lord's return. The Bible teaches that we cannot know "the day or the hour" of our Lord's Return (Mat. 24:36; 1 Thess. 5:1-3), **BUT it *does*** indicate that we can know the time and season (1 Thess. 5:4-6; Heb. 10:25; Mat. 24:33).

Those who know Bible prophecy are not bewildered by the increase in immorality and violence (Mat. 24:37-38; 2 Tim. 3:1-5), the never-ending crisis in the Middle East (Zech. 12:1-3, 6-9), and the raging apostasy in the Church (2 Tim. 4:1-4; 2 Pet. 2:1-3). All these are prophesied for the End Times.

Pastor and author Adrian Rogers (1931-2005) once said:

"The world is growing gloriously dark."

No one can understand this very insightful statement without a knowledge of Bible prophecy.

10B. Hope

The study of prophecy produces a heavenly hope in the believer!!

Romans 8:18

18 *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are **not worthy** to be compared with the **glory that is to be revealed** to us.*

1 Corinthians 2:9

9 *...but just as it is written, "Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, **all that God has prepared for those who love Him.**"*

Bible prophecy is full of glorious promises:

–Resurrection of the dead: 1 Cor. 15:42-44, 51-55.

–Rewards for works: Mat. 16:27; Rev. 22:12.

–New glorified bodies: Isa. 35:5-6; Phil. 3:20-21.

–Reigning with Jesus: 2 Tim. 2:11-12; Rev. 5:9-10.

–Victory over Satan: Rev. 20:7-10.

–Eternal life: Mat. 25:31-46; John 17:1-3.

2A:

The Abuse of Bible Prophecy

2 Peter 3:3-4

3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts,

4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

Bible prophecy has been one of the most ignored AND abused portions of God's Word, even among God's people.

1B. Reasons people ignore prophecy

- "It's too _____. You have to have a degree in theology to understand it."

Yes, it takes study. But you don't need formal theological training to understand God's Word.

What you need is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26) a desire to study (2 Tim. 2:15), and a willingness to listen to sound teachers (Eph. 4:11-13).

- "Prophecy is too other-worldly."

Then why did the Apostles constantly use prophecy in their teaching and preaching (Acts 2:14-36; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)? The Apostles Paul and Peter both commanded us to respect and pay attention to prophecy (1 Thess. 5:20; 2 Pet. 1:19).

- "It's all pie in the sky."

No, it's full of God's precious promises concerning the future (1 Cor. 2:7-10).

- "It's _____."

It can be, if it's taught dogmatically, with arrogance – just as is the case with any other portion of God's Word (Col. 3:12-17; Tit. 2:7-8).

- "It's Old Testament."

Jesus revered and quoted the Old Testament prophecies (Mat. 4:4, 7, 10; 24:15-21), and we're exhorted to pay attention to the teachings of the Old Testament (1 Cor. 10:1-12).

- "Prophecy doesn't apply to me."

John the Baptist presented a prophecy in John 3:36 that applies to _____ person who has ever lived—namely, that those who put their faith in Jesus will have eternal life, and those who do not, will experience the wrath of God. Prophecy is full of warnings to unbelievers and "*precious promises*" for those who have put their faith in Jesus (2 Pet. 1:4).

- "It's all too scary. It's full of bad news."

Yes, there are a lot of frightening prophecies, but only for those who reject God's gift of love and grace in Jesus. For those who accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, there is only gloriously _____ news— good news (Rev. 20:6).

- "If it's for real, then why hasn't Jesus returned?"

The Apostle Peter tells us—the only reason Jesus has not returned is because God *"...does not wish that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Pet. 3:3-9).

- "If it's for real, then why are there so many prophecies that haven't been fulfilled?"

The *only* prophecies that haven't been fulfilled yet are those that relate to the _____.

2B. Ways people abuse prophecy

- **The apostates**

These are people who profess to be Christians, but who dismiss prophetic passages as meaningless poetry, or argue that the prophecies were written _____ the event that was prophesied (Mat. 24:10-12, 2 Tim. 3:1, 5; 2 Pet. 3:1-4).

The Spiritualizers

These are Christians who argue that prophecy never means what it says, so they spiritualize it. However, Bible prophecy should be interpreted **literally** unless it is clearly symbolic. For example, all the prophecies about the First Advent of Christ meant exactly what they said—He was born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14), He was born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2), He lived in Galilee (Isa. 9:1-7), etc.. Therefore we believe that the Second Coming prophecies will also be literally fulfilled.

- **The Fanatics**

These are Christians who believe in Bible prophecy, but who engage in wild speculations about things like the identity of the Antichrist, or the date of Jesus' return. However, we need to "go where the Bible goes, and stop where the Bible stops."

- **The Apathetic**

These are Christians who are either cold in the faith, or too lazy to study prophecy. But apathy should have no place in the Christian life. Satan doesn't want anyone studying prophecy, because prophecy contains the revelation of Satan's ultimate defeat, while revealing the absolute victory of Jesus.

3A: The Interpretation of Prophecy

Bible prophecy—like the rest of Scripture—was meant to be _____ by the believer.

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

12 *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit Who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,*

13 *which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.*

There is a God-given meaning to all Scripture. Understanding that meaning is the task of hermeneutics, the art and science of Biblical interpretation. There are some core principles to keep in mind as you approach prophecy.

1B. Right attitude

Come with childlike _____, believing that God wants us to understand what He has said, and that when He speaks, He means what He says.

Quote:

"Revelation is not difficult to understand. It is difficult to believe. If you will believe it, you will understand it." – Dr. Henry Morris

2B. Surface meaning

Always look for the " _____ " meaning of every passage, which is most often the intended meaning.

A good rule for the interpretation of all of Scripture, including prophecy, is this one:

"If the plain sense makes good sense, don't look for any other sense, lest you end up with nonsense."

3B. Context

Always consider the context, which determines the _____ of words. In Psalm 50:10 God says that *"the cattle on a thousand hills"* belong to Him; the context indicates that the word *thousand* is symbolic for "many." But in Revelation 20 we are told no less than six times that the Lord is returning to reign for a thousand years; the context makes it clear that the word *thousand* is literal.

4B. Scripture interprets Scripture

A correct interpretation is always consistent with all the rest of Scripture. Avoid hanging doctrine on isolated verses. All verses on a particular topic must be compared, and your interpretation must fit with _____ of them.

4A: End Time Viewpoints

There are _____ major ways in which End Times prophecies have been interpreted.

Revelation 20:4

4 *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them . . . [and they] **reigned with Christ for a thousand years.***

When interpreted for its plain sense meaning, this verse leads to the view called Premillennialism. But if interpreted symbolically, it leads to a view based upon spiritualizing prophecy.

1B. Historic Premillennialism

This was the viewpoint of the Early Church until the year 400 A.D. The Church Age will be followed by seven years of Tribulation when God pours out His wrath upon the earth. Then Jesus will appear in the heavens at the end of the Tribulation. The saints, living and dead, will meet Him in the sky and immediately return with Him to earth to reign with Him from Jerusalem. At the end of His reign, the earth will be consumed by fire, producing a new and perfected earth. The saints will then live with God eternally on the new earth. This view is based upon a _____ interpretation of Bible passages.

2B. Amillennialism

The second view was developed by Saint Augustine around 400 A.D. The term *Amillennial* literally means “no thousand years.” Amillennialists believe that the Millennium is the current _____ reign of Christ over the Church, and that it will continue until He returns for His saints. Augustine spiritualized everything, arguing that the Kingdom is the Church, the Millennium is the Church Age, and the new earth is Heaven. The Amillennial concept is held by the Catholic Church and by most of the old mainline Protestant denominations.

3B. Postmillennialism

The third view of the End Times is called Postmillennialism, developed in the 1600’s by a Unitarian named Daniel Whitby. The Postmillennial view holds that the Church Age will gradually evolve into a “golden age” when the Church will rule over all the world. This will be accomplished through the Christianization of the nations, and Christ will come _____ this. By 1900, nearly all Protestant Christianity held this viewpoint. However Postmillennialism died with the outbreak of the First World War, which undermined one of its fundamental assumptions—the inevitability of progress. Postmillennialism explained away the many prophecies in the Bible that clearly state that society is going to get *worse* rather than better as the time approaches for the Lord’s return (Mat. 24:4-24; 2 Tim. 3:1-5). It also lacked a consistent Biblical base. Postmillennialism necessitated literalizing prophecies concerning the Millennium, while spiritualizing prophecies about the personal presence of the Lord during the Millennium.

4B. Modern Premillennialism

The modern premillennial viewpoint crystallized in the early 1800’s among the Plymouth Brethren in England. This viewpoint revived the historic premillennial view, except that the Second Coming consists of two stages: first an appearing of

Jesus in the heavens _____ the Church, and second, a return to the earth _____ His Church. This concept of the Rapture has come to be known as the "Pre-Tribulational Rapture" because the Church is taken out of the world *before* the Tribulation begins.

5B. Comparisons

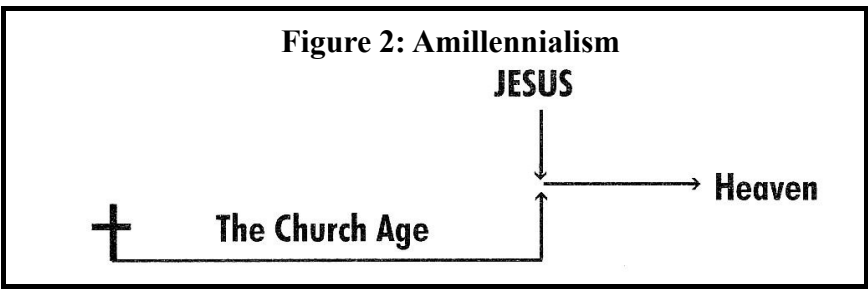
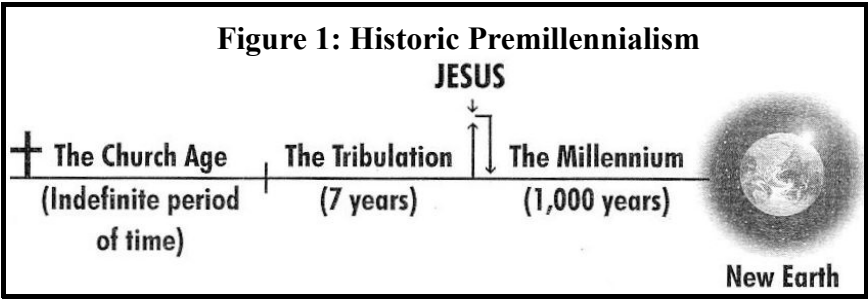
There are two similarities amongst these four views.

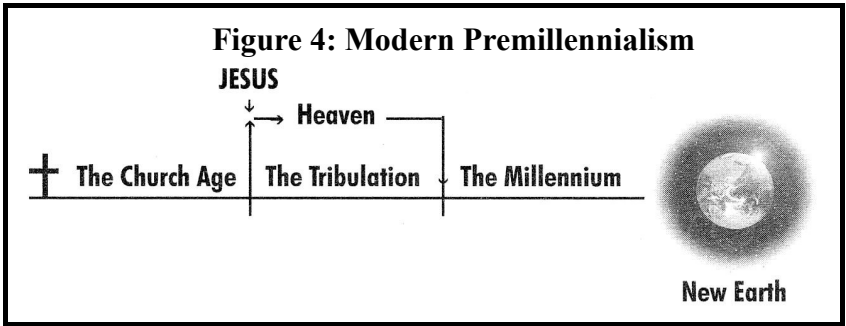
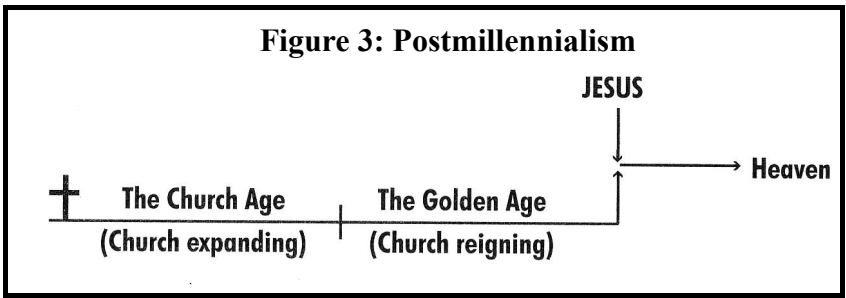
-**All agree** that Jesus is coming back for His saints, and...

-**All agree** that the Redeemed will spend eternity in the presence of God.

These two points are far more important than the points of disagreement.

However, the areas of disagreement are significant, because the key to these differences is the approach to Scripture. Spiritualizing Scripture results in the Amillennial or Postmillennial viewpoint. Accepting Scripture _____ results in a Premillennial viewpoint.





5A: A Chronology of End Times Events

A chronology of End Times events must be pieced together from passages in the Old and New Testaments. No one prophet was given the entire End Times scenario. When looking into the future, prophets saw the big events God showed them, but without a sense of all the time that would pass between the events—the way a hiker can see a row of mountain tops in the distance, but not the valleys between them (see illustration at end of notes).

As is the case with any Biblical doctrine, _____ passages related to that doctrine must be considered.

The following chronology is based on a _____ interpretation of what the Bible says about the End Times. The timing of some of events—like the War of Gog and Magog, and the Rapture—is not revealed in Scripture.

1B. War of Psalm 83

This is a war meant to annihilate Israel, launched by an _____ circle of nations that have a common border with her. Israel will win this war (Zech. 12:6-9).

[Amir Tsarfati believes that this was the War of Independence fought immediately after Israel was declared a nation again in 1948. Lebanon, Syria, Iraq ("Assyria"), Jordan ("Edom, Moab, Ammon, and Amalek"), Egypt, AND the Arabs living in the West Bank ("Philistia") all rose up against Israel at that time (see Psa. 83:4-8).]

2B. War of God and Magog

Ezekiel 38 and 39 picture another war against Israel by an _____ circle of nations, led by _____. All the nations named as allies of Russia are Muslim states today. God will intervene and supernaturally destroy them. Some place this war at the beginning of the Tribulation, and others at the halfway point.

3B. Rapture

This is the appearing of Jesus in the heavens for His Church, an event that could occur any moment—before, between, or after the above wars. There are no _____ that must be fulfilled before it happens; it will occur before the Tribulation begins (1 Thess. 1:10).

4B. Gap

It appears there will be a gap of time between the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation, during which time a panicked world (because of the disappearance of Christians around the globe) will respond to a dynamic leader in Europe—the Antichrist—who will seem to have all the answers.

5B. Antichrist

The Bible says the Antichrist will come from the people who destroyed the Temple in 70AD—the Romans (Dan. 9:26). Most likely he will emerge from the European Union, since the Bible indicates that a form of the Roman Empire will be revived in the End Times (Dan. 2:40-43).

6B. Covenant

The Antichrist will make a covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:27) that will mark the _____ of the Tribulation. It's assumed that it will guarantee Israel's security, enabling the Jews to rebuild their temple.

7B. Tribulation

The Antichrist will launch a military campaign to conquer the world. Meanwhile, God will rain supernatural disasters upon the earth for seven years.

8B. Desecration of the temple

By the middle of the Tribulation the Antichrist will have conquered the whole world (Rev. 13:7). At that point, he will go to Jerusalem, enter the rebuilt _____, and declare himself to be God (2 Thess. 2:3-4).

9B. Revolt of the Jews

The Jewish people will _____ the Antichrist as their Messiah, and he will attempt to annihilate them (Rev. 12:13-17). The Jews will flee into Jordan, where God will supernaturally protect them.

10B. Second Coming

After the Tribulation, Jesus will return in glory to the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:1-9). He will speak a supernatural word that will instantly destroy the Antichrist and his armies (Zech. 14:12-15).

11B. Salvation of the Jews

When Jesus appears in the heavens, the remaining Jews will _____ (Zech. 12:10) and receive their Messiah (Mat. 23:37-39).

12B. Resurrection

At the Second Coming, all Tribulation martyrs (and some scholars believe Old Testament saints too), will be resurrected and glorified.

13B. Judgment

Jesus will judge all who are alive at the end of the Tribulation (Mat. 25:31-46; Ezek. 20:33-38). Those who accepted Him as Lord and Savior will be allowed to enter the Millennium in the _____. Those who rejected Him will be consigned to Hades.

14B. Binding of Satan

Satan will be bound in the Bottomless Pit where he can no longer deceive the nations (Rev. 20:1-3).

15B. Millennium

Jesus and His glorified saints will reign for a thousand years over those in the flesh (Rev. 20: 4-5) with _____, righteousness, and justice (Isa. 2:1-4; 11:4-9).

16B. Revolt

At the end of the Millennium, Satan will be released, and he will rally many of those in the flesh to rebel against Jesus. The rebels will be destroyed by God, and Satan will be thrown into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:7-10).

17B. Great White Throne Judgment

All those throughout history who died _____ a faith relationship with God will be resurrected and judged according to their works to determine their eternal destiny (Rev. 20:11-15). Since no one can be justified by works, they will all be consigned to Hell, where their punishment will match their sins.

18B. New Heavens and Earth

The heavens and earth will be consumed by _____, burning away the pollution of Satan's last revolt. Out of this fiery inferno will come new heavens and a new, perfect, and eternal earth (2 Pet. 3:12-13).

19B. Heaven on Earth

_____ will come to earth. The redeemed will live eternally in the presence of God in the New Jerusalem located on the New Earth (Rev. 21:2-7).

6A: The Rapture

1B. The word

The word *Rapture* comes from the Latin Vulgate term *rapio*, which is a translation of the Greek word, *harpadzo*, meaning "to catch up, to snatch away, or to take out." So the Rapture of the Church is the event in which God "snatches away" all believers from the earth before pouring out His wrath on the earth during the Tribulation.

The doctrine of the Rapture wasn't taught in the Old Testament; hence Paul calls it a "mystery."

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

2B. The timing

The timing of the Rapture is controversial. Some believe the Rapture occurs before the Tribulation, others say it occurs at or near the mid-point of the Tribulation, and still others believe it occurs at the end of the Tribulation.

It's important to remember the _____ of the Tribulation. According to Daniel 9:27, there is a seventieth "seven" (seven years) that is yet to come. Daniel's entire prophecy of the seventy sevens (Daniel 9:20-27) is speaking of the nation of Israel. So the seventieth seven, the Tribulation, must also be a time when God deals specifically with Israel. This brings into question why the Church would need to be on the earth during that time.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 states that living believers, along with believers who have died, will meet the Lord Jesus in the air and will be with Him forever.

The Rapture is God's _____ of His people from the earth.

A few verses later Paul says,

1 Thessalonians 5:9

9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

It seems inconsistent for God to promise believers that they won't suffer wrath, and then leave them on the earth through the Tribulation. The fact that God promises to deliver Christians from wrath shortly after promising to remove His people from the earth seems to link these events together.

Another crucial passage on the Rapture is Revelation 3:10, in which Christ promises to deliver believers *"from the hour of trial"* that is going to come upon the earth. This could mean that Christ will protect believers **in** the trials, or that He will keep believers **out** of the trials. Both are valid meanings of the Greek word translated *"from."* However Christ promised to keep believers from the *"hour"* of trial—the actual _____ period that contains the trials, namely the Tribulation.

The purpose of the Tribulation, the purpose of the Rapture, the meaning of 1 Thessalonians 5:9, and the interpretation of Revelation 3:10 all give clear support to the Pre-Tribulational position.

One of the objections to the Pre-Tribulational Rapture is that *"it's too _____ to be true."* This is based on the belief that the concept dates to the early 19th Century. Actually, the doctrine existed in several denominations as far back as the 17th Century. But Jeremiah and Daniel were told that many End Times prophecies would not be understood until the time came for them to be fulfilled (Jer. 23:20, 30:24; Dan. 12:8-9). What matters is whether it lines up with the Bible. (In the 16th Century, when Martin Luther revived the true Gospel of salvation by grace through faith, his critics dismissed it as *"too new to be true,"* despite the fact that it was clearly one of the fundamental truths of the New Testament.)

3B. The transformation

The Rapture will involve a transformation of our bodies to outfit us for _____. Accompanied by the blowing of a trumpet and the shout of an archangel, Jesus will appear in the sky. Then the dead in Christ will be resurrected and rise up to meet the Lord in the sky. He will reunite their new immortal bodies with their spirits. And the believers who are living will be caught up to the Lord and be instantaneously changed from mortal to immortal (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-54).

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and **the dead in Christ** will rise first.

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

1 John 3:2

2 We know that when He [Christ] appears, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.

4B. Rapture vs. Second Coming

The Rapture is to be distinguished from the Second Coming. At the Rapture, the Lord comes "in the clouds" to meet us "in the air" (1 Thess. 4:17). The Rapture will be more of an "appearing" than a "coming," for the Lord will not actually return to the earth. In the Rapture, the Lord comes _____ His Church _____ the Tribulation.

At the Second Coming, Jesus returns _____ His Church at the _____ of the Tribulation. He will descend all the way to the earth to stand on the Mount of Olives, resulting in a great earthquake, and followed by a defeat of God's enemies (Zech. 14:3-4).

5B. Problematic Post-Trib Rapture

Amillennials and some Premillennials have tried to _____ these events at the end of the Tribulation, saying that the Lord will appear in the heavens, the Church will be caught up to Him, and then He and the Church will immediately return to earth.

There are some serious problems with this. First, it destroys the imminence of the Lord's return. We're repeatedly told that the Lord's return is _____ and that we should always be ready (Mat. 24:36, 42, 44, 50; 25:13). That is impossible if you combine the Rapture with the Second Coming because there are too many prophecies that must be fulfilled before the Second Coming can occur.

A second problem is that a Post-Tribulation Rapture eliminates a population to enter the Millennium in the _____. If the Rapture and the Second Coming occur together at the end of the Tribulation, then all believers are glorified at that point, and all unbelievers are consigned to death and to Hades.

A third problem is that we're told to look for the return of _____. Paul told Titus we're to live *"looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus"* (Titus 2:13). If we're not going to see Jesus until the end of the Tribulation, then we should be looking for the Antichrist.

The Rapture **1 Thessalonians 4**

Jesus **appears** in the heavens
Jesus appears **for** His Church
Jesus appears as a **Deliverer**
Jesus appears in **Grace**
Jesus appears as a **Bridegroom**

The Second Coming **Revelation 19**

Jesus **returns** to earth
Jesus returns **with** His Church
Jesus returns as a **Warrior**
Jesus returns in **Wrath**
Jesus returns as a **King**

7A: The Tribulation

The Rapture will be followed by a seven-year Tribulation.

Matthew 24:21

21 . . . for then there will be **a great tribulation**, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.

1B. Biblical Basis

The first mention of the Tribulation is in Deuteronomy 4:27-30. Moses warned Israel that if they were unfaithful to God, "*in the latter days*" they would come under "*distress*," and the result would be their "*return to the Lord*." Jeremiah called it "*the time of Jacob's distress*" (Jer. 30:7). Daniel called it "*a time of distress*" and prophesied it would be the worst period of trouble in the history of the Jewish people (Dan. 12:1).

Isaiah 24 and the entire book of Zephaniah are devoted to it, and Zechariah prophesied that two-thirds of the Jewish people will perish during that time. Of the remnant remaining, he wrote, "*I [the Lord] will bring the third part through the fire [and] refine them as silver is refined . . .*" (Zech. 13:8-9). Malachi stated it would be a time of refining for the Jews (Mal. 3:1-4). And finally, fourteen chapters in Revelation focus on it (Rev. 6-19).

2B. Scope

_____ the nations of the world will experience catastrophic calamities (Isa. 2:10-17; Zeph. 1:18; Psa. 75:8).

3B. Length

Daniel said God would accomplish all His purposes for the Jewish people during a period of 70 " _____ " (groups of seven) of years (490 years). Sixty-nine of those weeks of years (483 years) would lead up to the death of the Messiah. The final week of years would occur at the end of the age, right before the return of the Messiah (Dan. 9:24-27). This concluding week of years (7 years) corresponds to the Tribulation; Daniel says it will mark the time when "*the prince who is to come*" will "*make desolate*"—a reference to the Antichrist.

The timing established by Daniel is confirmed in the book of Revelation where the Tribulation is divided into two periods of 3½ years (Rev. 11:3,7; 13:5). The midpoint will occur when the Antichrist enters the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem, stops the sacrifices, and declares himself to be God (Mat. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:5-6).

4B. Starting Point

The Bible says in general terms that the Tribulation will start after the Jews have been reestablished in their _____.

Specifically, the Bible says it will begin at a time when all the world comes together against Israel over the issue of who will control the city of Jerusalem (Zech. 12:2-3). Today the United Nations, the European Union, the Vatican, and the Arab nations are all demanding that the Jews surrender their sovereignty over Jerusalem.

The specific event that will mark the seven-year countdown of the Tribulation will be the signing of a _____ between Israel and the Antichrist that will most likely guarantee Israel's safety and allow the Jews to rebuild their Temple (Dan. 9:27).

5B. Description

Jesus said the Tribulation will be time of unparalleled horror “such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall,” (Mat. 24:21) so terrible that if it were longer than seven years, it would result in the destruction of all life (Mat. 24:22).

6B. Purpose

One purpose of the Tribulation is to satisfy the perfect justice of God as He punishes the sins of a world full of people who _____ to believe and follow Him.

A second reason for the Tribulation is to bring people to _____. Even when God pours out His wrath, His purpose is not to destroy, but to save. Isaiah 26:9 says, “When the earth experiences Your judgments, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.” Many will continue to reject Him, but many others will be brought to repentance.

8A: The Second Coming

The Second Coming will end the Tribulation and inaugurate the Millennium.

Zechariah 14:2-4, 9

*“I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem . . . **Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations . . . And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives . . . And the LORD will be King over all the earth . . .**”*

The two great prophetic symbols of the Messiah in the Old Testament are the Suffering _____ (Isa. 53:7) and the Conquering _____ (Isa. 31: 4-5). He is pictured with the same symbols in New Testament prophecy (Rev. 5:5-6). The Suffering Lamb prophecies were fulfilled in the First Coming of Jesus. The Conquering Lion prophecies will be fulfilled at His Second Coming.

1B. Certainty

The oldest Second Coming prophecy in the Bible is found in the book of Jude.

Jude 14-15

14 *It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "**Behold, the Lord came** with many thousands of His holy ones,*

15 *to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."*

Another ancient prophecy is in the book of Job, which many scholars believe is the _____ book in the Bible. Job said:

Job 19:25-27:

"As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives,

*And **at the last, He will take His stand on the earth.***

Even after my skin is destroyed,

*Yet **from my flesh I will see God;***

Whom I myself shall behold . . ."

Job prophesied both the Second Coming and the Resurrection.

Many of the Psalms, all the Major Prophets, and almost all the Minor Prophets look forward to the day when the Messiah will reign over all the world from Jerusalem. In the New Testament, Peter, Paul, and John all affirm that the Messiah will return to reign.

The Archangel _____ promised Mary that her Son would be given the throne of David and "*will reign over the house of Jacob forever*" (Luke 1:32-33). This did not happen at the Lord's First Coming, so it must be referring to His Second Coming.

When Jesus ascended into Heaven, two angels told His disciples that He would return the same way—bodily and visibly (Acts 1:10-11).

Most important, Jesus Himself promised that He would return soon. These are His _____ recorded words in the final book of the Bible:

"Yes, I am coming quickly" (Rev. 22:20).

2B. Timing

How could Jesus say He was returning *"quickly"* when it's been 2,000 years since His ascension? The Apostle Peter answered this when he wrote that to God, *"a thousand years is like a day"* (2 Pet. 3:8).

He then explained the reason for the delay:

2 Peter 3:9

*9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing for any to perish**, but for all to come to repentance.*

3B. Resurrections

The Bible speaks of two resurrections in the end times. Jesus refers to them as the *"resurrection of life"* and the *"resurrection of judgment"* (John 5:29; Acts 24:15).

It's clear that all Church Age believers are resurrected at the Rapture. Some Bible scholars believe that the Old Testament believers will be resurrected at the same time. Other scholars place their resurrection at the end of the Tribulation (based on Dan. 12:2) along with the Tribulation martyrs.

At the end of the Millennium all those throughout history who died outside a faith relationship with God are raised.

4B. Judgments

Resurrection will be followed by _____ (Rom. 2:16; 14:10, 12; Heb. 9:27). Believers of the Church Age will be judged in Heaven before the Judgment Seat of Jesus, (2 Cor. 5:10). Tribulation martyrs will be judged when they're resurrected at the Second Coming of Christ (Rev. 20:4). Some scholars believe Old Testament saints will also be judged at this time (Dan. 12:1-2).

Those who live to the end of the Tribulation will be judged at the "Sheep and Goat Judgment" (Mat. 25:31-46).

And finally, all the unrighteous of all the previous ages will be judged at the end of the Millennium. This terrible judgment is called the "*Great White Throne Judgment*" (Rev. 20:11-15).

The Redeemed are judged on the basis of their works to determine their degrees of _____. The lost are judged on the basis of their works to determine their eternal _____. And since no one can be justified before God by their works (Eph. 2:8-10), all will be condemned to Hell.

The unjust are also judged for another reason. All sin is NOT equal in the eyes of God. Proverbs 6:16-19 lists seven sins that the Lord particularly hates. There WILL be degrees of punishment in Hell (Luke 12:35-48; 20:45-47; Rev. 22: 12), and those degrees will be specified at the Great White Throne Judgment.

9A: Millennium

Jesus will reign for a thousand years from Jerusalem.

Zechariah 14:9

9 *And the LORD will be **King over all the earth**; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.*

That reign is called the *Millennium*—Latin for “one thousand years” (Rev. 20:1-10).

1B. Description

The reign will be worldwide (Isa. 2:2; 9:6-7), _____ (Isa. 2:4; Mic. 4:1-7), righteous (Isa. 11:4-5), and just (Isa. 42:3-4).

Jesus will occupy David’s throne in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:3). He will be King, Legislator, and Judge (Isa. 33:17-22). Believers will reign as princes (Isa. 32:1). Israel will be the head of all the nations in the world (Isa. 2:2-3, 49:22-23, 60:1-62:7).

The glory of the Lord will be wonderfully manifested (Isa. 40:3-5, 52:13-15, 61:3; 66:18), holiness will abound (Isa. 4:2-4), and _____ and praise will prevail.

Isaiah 35:10

10 *And the ransomed of the Lord will return, and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with **everlasting joy** upon their heads. **They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.***

A rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem will serve as the worship center of the world (Isa. 2:2-3; 56:6-8; 60:7b,13), and the Shekinah _____ of God will cover Jerusalem like a canopy (Isa. 4:5).

Isaiah tells us that lifespans for those in the flesh will be like *"the lifetime of a tree"* (Isa. 65:22). Anyone who dies at the age of 100 will be considered a youth (Isa. 65:20).

There will be no homeless or hungry people (Isa. 65:21-22). All labor will be productive, and it will not be confiscated by others (Isa. 65:23).

Disease will be curtailed (Isa. 33:24), and those born with handicaps will be healed (Isa. 35:5-6).

2B. Purposes

Many ask, "Why not simply take all believers to Heaven at the Second Coming and be done with this sin-sick world?" But God has made a number of promises that **must** be fulfilled during the Millennium.

- **Promises to the _____** – God has promised to gather to Israel the remnant of Jews who accept Jesus as their Messiah (Ezek. 36:22-28; Zech. 10:6-9). He will pour out His Spirit upon this remnant (Isa. 32:15; 44:3), greatly expand their numbers and their land (Ezek. 36:10-11; 48:1-29), and make them the head of all the nations in the world (Isa. 60-62).
- **Promises to the _____** – God has promised that believers will reign over the nations (Dan. 7:27). Paul said: *"If we endure, we shall also reign with Him"* (2 Tim. 2: 12). Jesus affirmed this in His letter to the church at Thyatira (Rev. 2: 26-27; also Rev. 5:10), and this is what Jesus meant when He said, *"Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth"* (Mat. 5:5). Jesus will reign as King of the world from Mount Zion (Isa. 24:23; Zech. 14:9). The Redeemed, in their glorified bodies, will help Him by serving as judges and spiritual tutors to those who enter the Kingdom in the flesh—and to their children (Dan. 7:18, 27; Jer. 3:15; Luke 19:11-17).

- **Promises to the _____** – God has promised that the nations will receive their greatest dream—worldwide peace—when the Prince of Peace returns. Only then will they realize the dream of a world where *“nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war”* (Isa. 2:4).
- **Promises to the _____** – One beautiful aspect of the Millennium is the redemption of nature. *“The fruit of the earth”* will be the pride of Israel (Isa. 4:2). *“Waters will break forth in the wilderness”* (Isa. 35:6b7). All members of the animal kingdom will live together in peace with each other and with mankind (Isa. 11:6-9; 65:25). God will remove the curse and restore Creation to its original beauty, balance, and peace (Rom. 8:18-23).
- **Promises to _____** – God is going to fulfill promises made to His Son. God promised Jesus that He will be glorified in history (Isa. 24:23; 66:18-19; 2 Thess. 1:7-10), and that He will reign over the nations from Mount Zion (Isa. 2:2-4 and Zech. 14:1-9). Psalm 2 presents Jesus speaking of His Father’s promise: *“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron . . .’”* (Psa. 2:7-9).

Jesus is currently a “King-in-waiting.” He has been anointed King of kings and Lord of lords, but He has not yet begun to rule. He is currently serving as our High Priest before the throne of God (Heb. 8:1), waiting for His Father’s command to return and claim all the kingdoms of this world (Heb. 2:5-9; Rev. 19:11-16).

A Final Reason – The Millennium will demonstrate that Humanism, which views evil as rooted in the society, and believes that the solution to Man’s problems can be found in societal reform, is bankrupt. The Word of God teaches that the source of evil is rooted within man’s fallen nature, and that it is _____ which needs to be changed (Gen. 8:21; Jer. 17:9-10; Mark 7: 20-23). God is going to prove this point by placing mankind in a perfect environment of peace and prosperity for a thousand years. Satan will be bound. Righteousness will abound. Yet when Satan is released, most people will rally to him when he calls the nations to rebellion against Jesus (Rev. 20:7-10). The Millennium will prove that what man needs is not a new society, but a new _____.

10A: Hope!

The message of Bible prophecy for believers is that “Jesus will triumph, and we’ll win in the end!”

1 Corinthians 15:57

57 *Thanks be to God, **Who gives us the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

What a glorious moment it will be when we’re lowered to the New Earth inside the fabulous New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2)! God will come down from Heaven to dwell with us (Rev. 21:3), proclaiming, “Behold, I make all things new” (Rev. 21:5). We’ll see God face to face (Rev. 22:4). He’ll wipe away all our tears (Rev. 21:4). And we’ll grow eternally in knowledge and love of our infinite Creator, honoring Him with our talents and gifts.

These are promises of God that should give us tremendous hope!!!

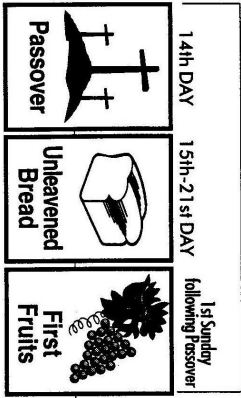
*"A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely **because** their minds were occupied with Heaven.*

It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in:' aim at earth and you will get neither." – C. S. Lewis

"Amen!!! Even so, come, Lord Jesus!!!"

PASSOVER

FIRST MONTH • MARCH/APRIL



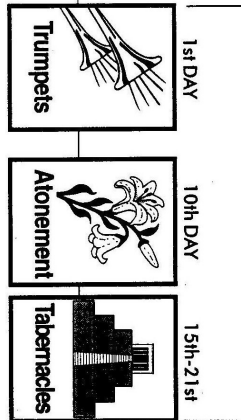
PENTECOST

THIRD MONTH • MAY/JUNE



TABERNACLES

SEVENTH MONTH • SEPT/OCT



FEAST

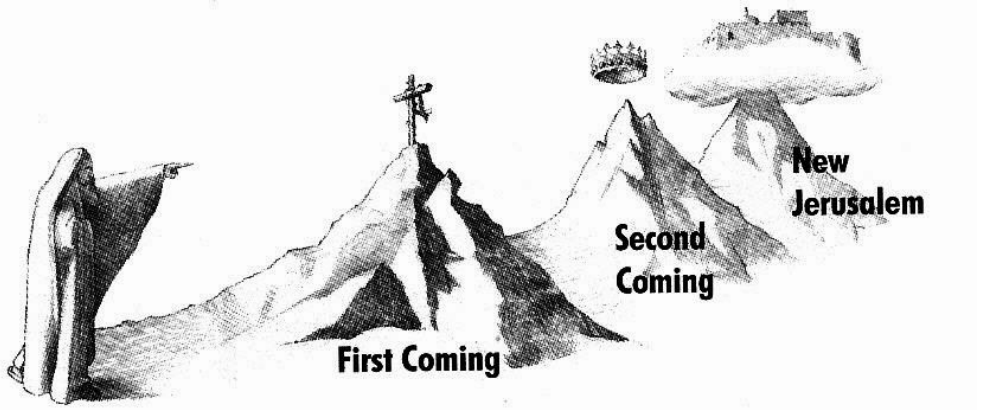
- Passover Justification
- Unleavened Bread Sanctification
- First Fruits Glorification
- Harvest Power
- Interval of 3 Months Church Kingdom
- Trumpets Rapture
- Day of Atonement Jewish Remnant
- Tabernacles Earthly Kingdom

CHRISTIAN EVENT

- Crucifixion of Jesus Justification
- Burial of Jesus Sanctification
- Resurrection of Jesus Glorification
- Descent of Holy Spirit Power
- Current Age of the Church Church Kingdom
- Gathering of the Church (?) Rapture
- Second Coming of Jesus (?) Jewish Remnant
- Inauguration of the Millennium Earthly Kingdom

KEY CONCEPT

Mountain Peaks of Bible Prophecy



The prophet sees events prophesied for the future but not the time intervals in between the events. Thus, they appear to him to be events that will occur immediately after each other.

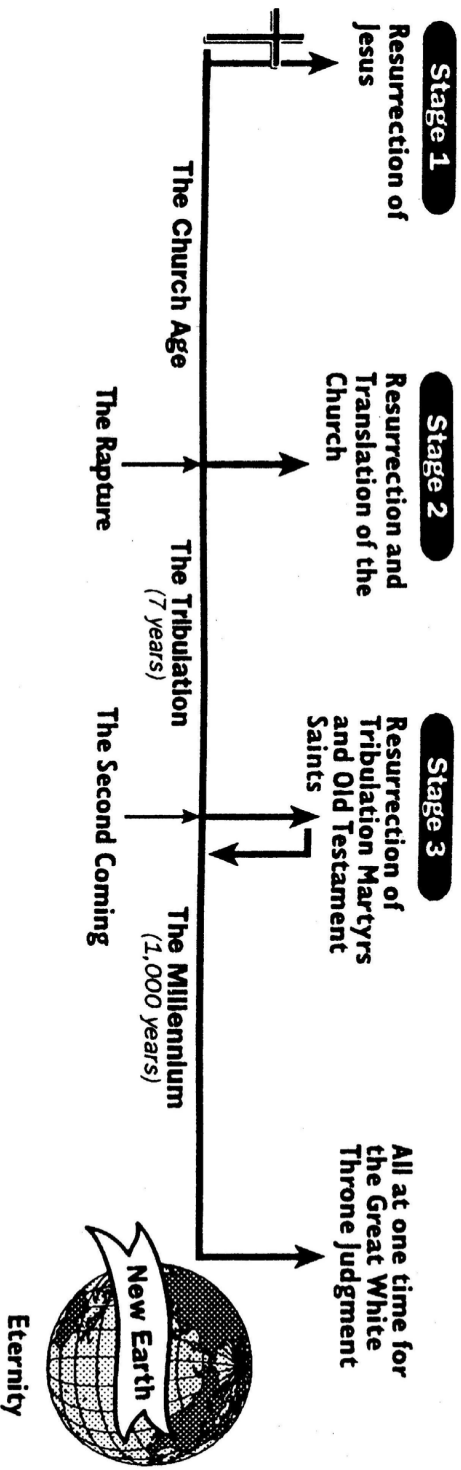
An Overview of End Time Resurrections

The First Resurrection

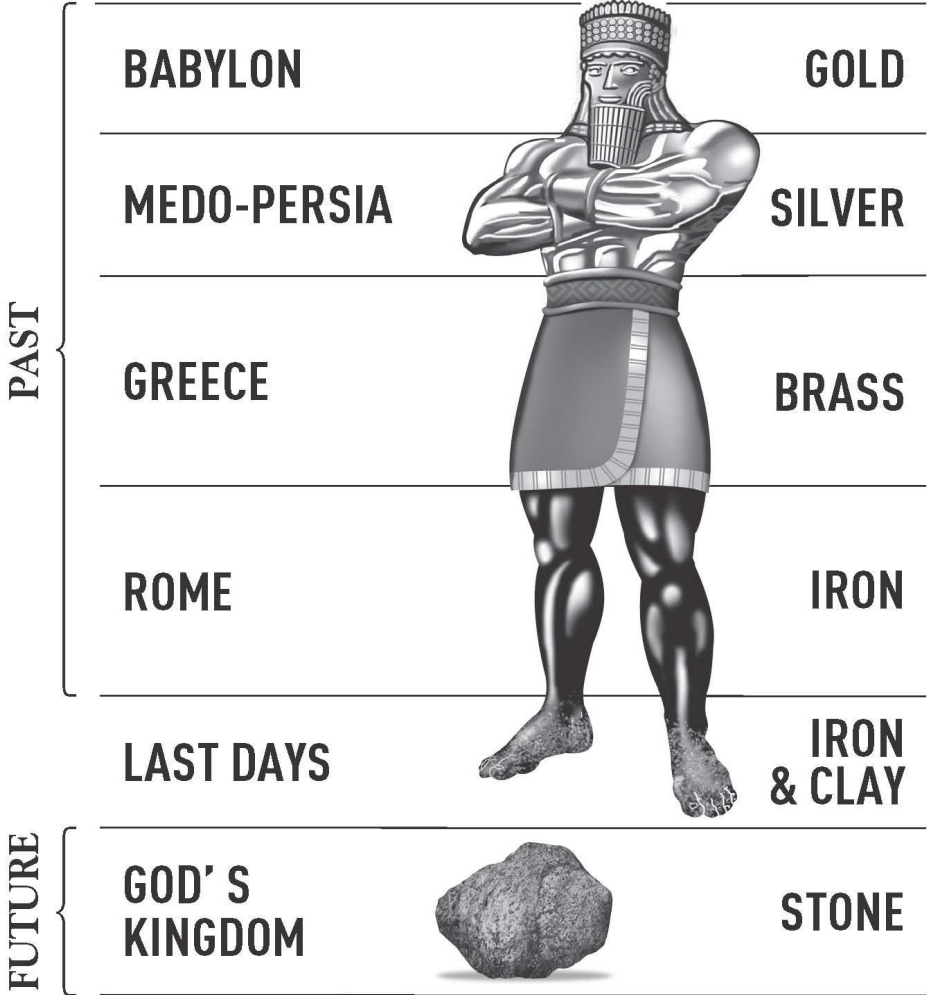
The Resurrection of the Righteous

The Second Resurrection

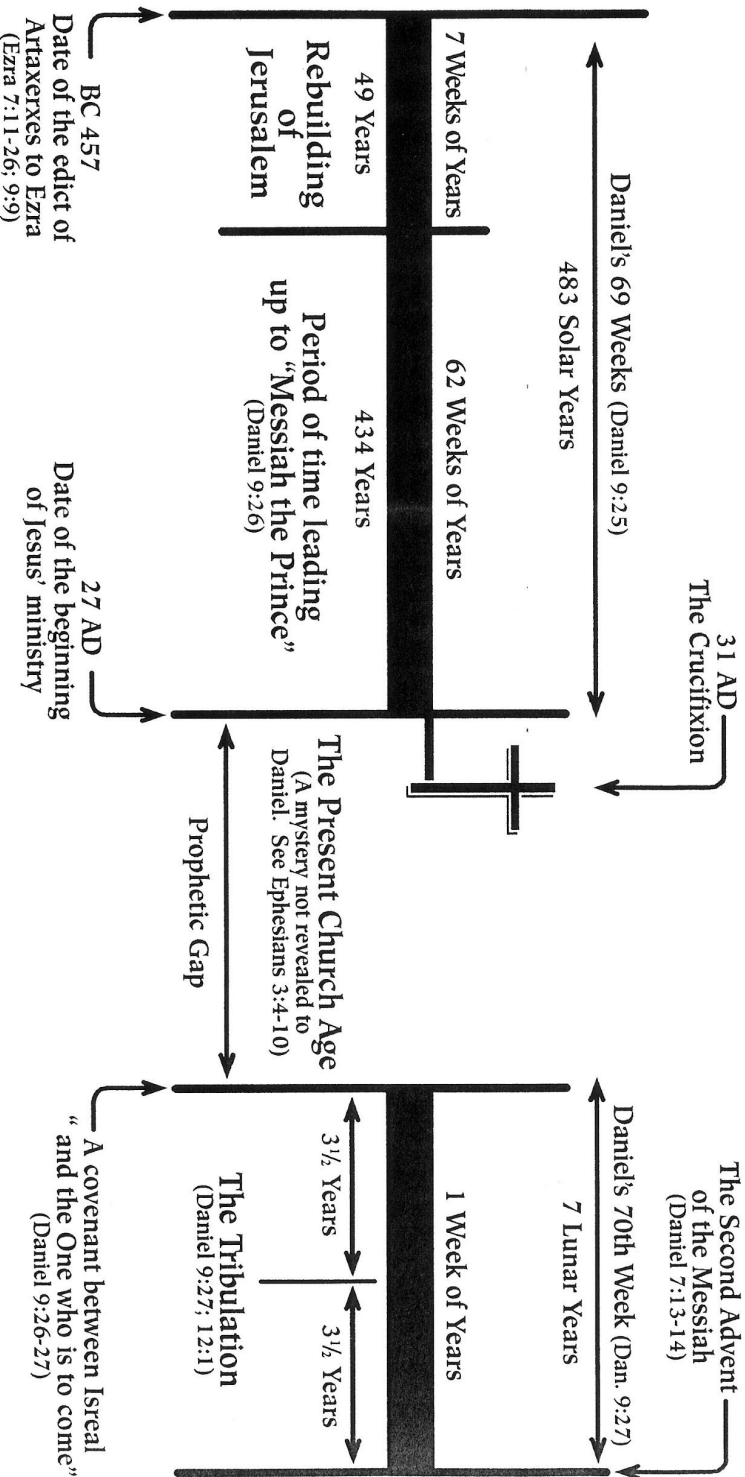
The Resurrection of the Unrighteous



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream



DANIEL'S SEVENTY WEEKS (Daniel 9:24-27)



Questions to Ask:



Extra Notes:

