

place, but the end won't follow immediately. <sup>7</sup> Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. <sup>8</sup> But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.

### C. It will be a time of Apathy.

**Matthew 24:12–13, NLT** - <sup>12</sup> Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

### D. It will be a time of Affliction.

**Matthew 24:9–10, NLT** - <sup>9</sup> Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed. You will be hated all over the world because you are my followers. <sup>10</sup> And many will turn away from me and betray and hate each other.

### E. It will be a time of Accomplishment.

**Matthew 24:14, NLT** - <sup>14</sup> And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

## 3. What does the future hold [detailed].

### A. The Growth of The Church

Jesus established the church and promised to continue to build it until He returns. (see Matthew 16:18; 24:14)

### B. An Increase of Evil

The Bible predicts that the increase of evil will continue until the end of the age. (see Matthew 24:12; 2 Timothy 3:1-5)

### C. The Rise of False Prophets

Jesus himself warned about the coming of false christs and false prophets. (see Matt. 24:4, 24; 2 Peter 2:1, 2 Cor. 11:13; Jude 17-18)

### D. The Regathering of Israel

In 1948, the ancient Bible prophecies were fulfilled when Israel became a nation again after nearly 1,900 years in exile. Ezekiel predicted a two-staged return: (1) physical regathering and (2) spiritual rebirth (see Ez. 37:1-14; Is. 43:5-6)

### E. Conflict in the Middle East

The general picture of the future is one of turmoil between the Jews and Arabs in the Middle East collectively, the prophets foresee Israel back in the Land, but under constant threat or attack. (see Matt. 24:6-7; Joel 3:2-14; Ez. 38:1-6)

### F. Rapture of the Church

At some unknown time in the future, Jesus will return to rapture (i.e. rescue) the church—all believers, both living and dead—to Heaven. The rapture precedes the tribulation period and fulfills the Lord's promise to keep us from the "hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world." (cf., Rev. 3:10)

The Greek word from which this term "rapture" is derived appears in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, translated "caught up." The Latin translation of this verse used the word *rapturo*. The Greek word it translates is *harpazo*, which means to "snatch," "rescue" or "take away." Elsewhere it is used to describe how the Spirit *caught up* Philip near Gaza and brought him to Caesarea (Acts 8:39) and to describe Paul's experience of being *caught up* into the third heaven (2 Cor. 12:2-4). Thus, there can be no doubt that the word is used in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 to indicate the actual removal of people from earth to heaven.

(see 1 Thess. 4:13-17, John 14:3, 1 Cor. 15:50-58)

### G. The Marriage of Christ

After the rapture and prior to the return of Christ to the earth, the "wedding of the Lamb" will take place in heaven (cf., Rev. 19:7-9). This description follows the pattern of the traditional Jewish Wedding in biblical times. The marriage supper of the Lamb is a glorious celebration—much like a wedding and reception—of all who are in Christ!

"Blessed are those who are invited  
to the marriage supper of the Lamb" – Rev. 19:9

(see Rev. 19:7-9, Eph. 5:25-27; 2 Cor. 11:2; Matt. 25:1-6)

### H. The Rise of The Antichrist

Called "the beast" (Rev. 13:1-10) and "the antichrist" (1 Jn. 2:22), he will be the last great political leader being assisted by the "false prophet" (Rev. 13:11-18). Together, they deceive the world during the tribulation period. Just as Christ came to earth to do God's will; the Antichrist will come to do the will of Satan. He will be Satan manifest in the form of man. (He will manifest blasphemy and wonders as one of charisma, cleverness, conquests and economic control. (see 2 Thess. 2:3-8; Rev. 13:1-10; 1 John 2:22; Rev. 13:11-18)

## I. The Global System

The book of Revelation clearly predicts the world, under the leadership of the Antichrist, will combine creating a global economy, global currency and one world government. (see Rev. 13:16-18; 17:1-18; 13:8-12; cf. the # 666 - the mark of the beast.)

## J. The Tribulation Period

Despite desires and efforts of world peace, the rule of the antichrist will be marked by wars of mass destruction, environmental disasters and divine judgments. (see 6:1-16; Rev. 9:16-18)

## K. The Battle of Armageddon

The prophetic picture indicates a series of wars of mass destruction are coming in the future (cf. Rev. 6-18). These will result in nearly half the population of the world being destroyed (cf., Rev. 8:7; 9:16-18). Eventually, these wars will culminate in a final battle at “the place called Armageddon (cf., Rev. 16:16). In the end, Christ Himself will return and conquer the beast and the false prophet, casting them into the lake of fire (cf., Rev. 19:11-20).

## L. The Return of Christ

There is one common theological area of agreement in Christian theology: ***Christ is Coming Again!*** (see Matt 24:30; Zech. 14:3-4; Is. 63:1-4; Rev. 19:11-16)

## M. The Millennial Kingdom

The NT describes this time when Christ rules on earth with His bride—the church—for a literal 1,000 years. It will be life on earth as God had always intended it to be. This will be followed by the *translation* as our time on earth ends.

(see Rev. 20:1-6; Rev. 5:10 Rev. 22:2; 21:27; Is. 65:19; John 3:16)

## N. The Great White Throne Judgment (for the Lost)

The millennial kingdom will be transferred into the eternal kingdom of God (cf., 1 Cor. 15:24) and the “Great White Throne Judgment” settles the eternal condemnation of all the lost of all time whose names are “not found written in the book of Life” (cf., Rev. 20:11-15). (see 1 Cor. 15:24; Rev. 20:11-15)

## O. The Eternal State (for the saved)

The Bible clearly predicts the perfect, eternal state as one of perpetual bliss where paradise is regained—we know it as “Heaven!” (see Rev. 21:1—22:5; 2 Peter 3:13; Rom. 8:30; Phil 1:6)

# TOUGH QUESTIONS

and Straight Answers by Pastor Joe K. Taylor

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

Here's the TOUGH QUESTION:

# What Does the Future Hold?

(From an Earthly Perspective)

Here's the STRAIGHT ANSWER:

## 1. The Short Answer:

**The Earth, as you know it, will end.**

## 2. Introduction to the issue:

### Five Facts about Our Future on Earth [Big Picture]

#### A. It will be a time of Apostasy (a falling away from *biblical truth*).

**Matthew 24:4–5, NLT** - <sup>4</sup> Jesus told them, “Don’t let anyone mislead you, <sup>5</sup> for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will deceive many...<sup>11</sup> And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people.

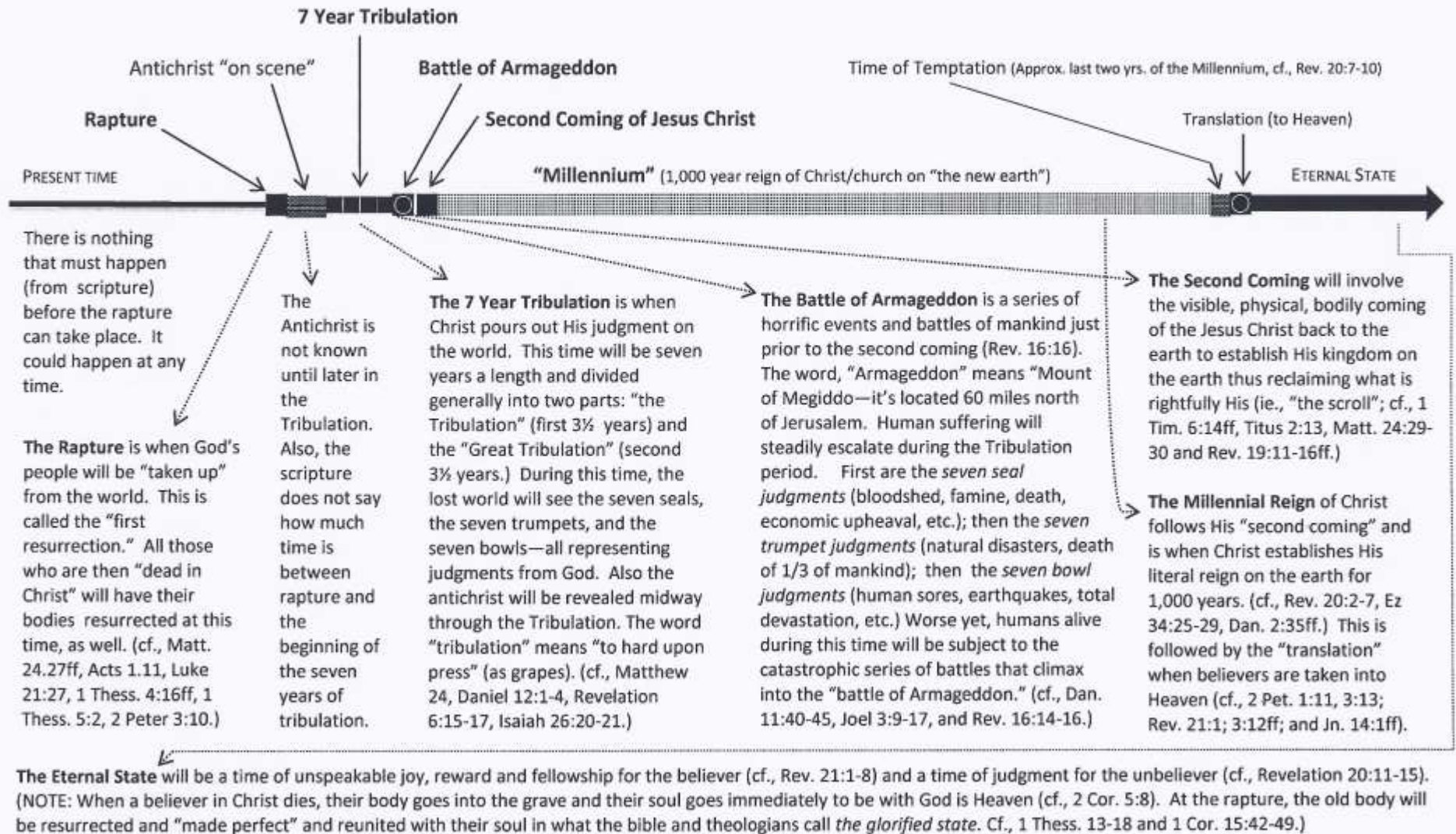
**2 Timothy 4:3, NIV84** - <sup>3</sup> For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

#### B. It will be time of Anarchy.

**Matthew 24:6–8, NLT** - <sup>6</sup> And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don’t panic. Yes, these things must take

# Chart of the End Times

This "CHART ON THE END TIMES" was developed by Dr. Joe K. Taylor



Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this." - Rev. 4:1, NLT