

WHEN ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE

How It All Ends: Part 4

August 23, 2026

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FOUR VIEWS OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

View	Basic Idea	When Revelation is Fulfilled
Preterist	Most was fulfilled around the fall of Jerusalem and/or Rome.	Mostly past.
Historicist	Revelation is a panorama of church history.	Throughout church history.
Idealist	Revelation symbolically depicts the ongoing conflict between God and evil.	Throughout all ages.
Futurist	Much of Revelation, esp. chs 4-22 describe future events surrounding Christ's return.	Primarily future.

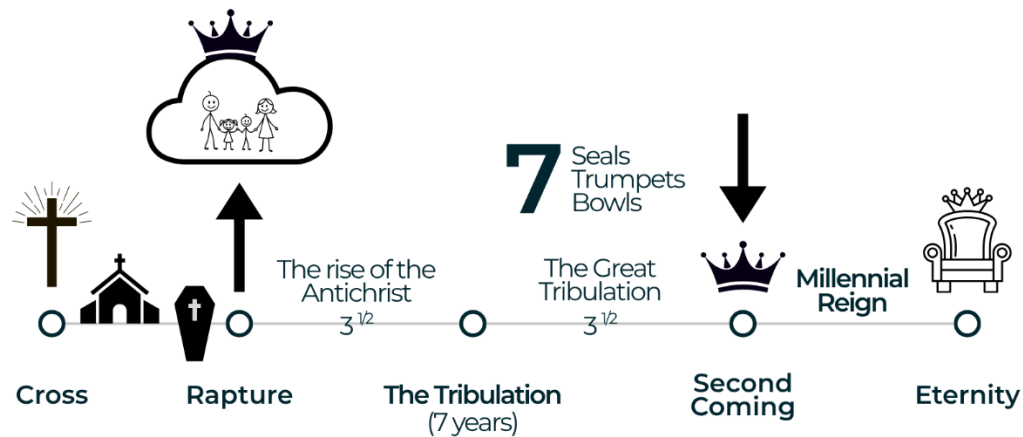
The Great Tribulation

Revelation 6-18, 19

¹⁵ "So when you see the **abomination of desolation** spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁷ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, ¹⁸ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. ¹⁹ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! ²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath. ²¹ For then there will be **GREAT TRIBULATION**, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. ²² And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short. (Matthew 24:15–22 ESV)

See also Daniel 12:1; Jeremiah 30:7

The Great Tribulation



DEFINITION: The **Great Tribulation** is the second half of the seven-year period (aka Daniel's 70th week) between the **RAPTURE** and the **SECOND COMING** marked by the reign of the Antichrist and global devastation.

"And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment." (1 Thessalonians 1:10, NLT)

"For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:9, NIV84)

What Do I Need to Know?

1. The Great Tribulation will be the worst time in human history as the combined result of:

a. Sin's CONSEQUENCES.

"For the wages of sin is death..." (Romans 6:23a, NLT)

b. Satan's CARNAGE.

"...doom to earth and sea, For the Devil's come down on you with both feet; he's had a great fall; He's wild and raging with anger; he hasn't much time and he knows it." (Revelation 12:12, MSG)

c. Nature's CALAMITIES.

"Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay." (Romans 8:20–21, NLT)

2. The primary elements include:

a. 7 YEARS.

"That ruler will have a firm agreement with many people for seven years, and when half this time is past, he will put an end to sacrifices and offerings. The Awful Horror will be placed on the highest point of the Temple and will remain there until the one who put it there meets the end which God has prepared for him." (Daniel 9:27, GNB)

b. 7 KEY FIGURES (*Revelation 12:1-13:18*)

c. 7 SEALS (*Revelation 6-7*).

d. 7 TRUMPETS (*Revelation 8-11*).

e. 7 BOWLS (*Revelation 16*).

3. Why will the Great Tribulation happen?

a. Judgement of ISRAEL.

"Of all nations on earth, you are the only one I have chosen. That's why I will punish you because of your sins." (Amos 3:2, CEV)

b. Judgement of SIN. See also Genesis 6.

"And they cried to the mountains and the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.'" (Revelation 6:16, NLT)

c. Judgement of SATAN.

"But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil." (1 John 3:8, NLT)

d. The completion of the GREAT COMMISSION.

"But before the end comes, the good news must be preached to all nations." (Mark 13:10, CEV)

Summary:

- JUSTICE is served.
- BILLIONS of people will die.
- EARTH is in shambles.
- Hard hearts grow HARDER.
- Repentant hearts are RECEIVED.

Lessons We Can Learn

1. Nothing we're going through now will ever be as bad as then or as GLORIOUS as it will be.

"Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later." (Romans 8:18, NLT)

2. Sin's consequences are always WORSE than you think.

"He chose to suffer with God's people rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a little while." (Hebrews 11:25, GW)

3. The more we reject God's grace, the less likely we are to EVER RECEIVE IT.

"Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him." (Ephesians 4:18, NLT)

4. God always keeps His PROMISES.

"Soon I will die, going the way of everything on earth. Deep in your hearts you know that every promise of the Lord your God has come true. Not a single one has failed!" (Joshua 23:14, NLT)

5. Even disasters have a divine DESIGN.

"Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways." (Proverbs 20:30, GNB)

"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;...And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." (Revelation 7:14, NASB95)

NEXT STEPS

Get in! (1st Base)

Get in the game. (Serving)

Get in a group. (Small Group)

Invite someone to church!