

What Comes Next?

(Revelation 1:1-3)

4 Keys to Remember (to Know Where You Are and Where You are Headed):

1. The **Opening** (Rev. 1:1-3)

2. The **Outline** (Rev. 1:19)

- 1) The **Representation** of Jesus (Rev. 1)
- 2) The **Report** on the Seven Churches (Rev. 2-3)
- 3) The **Rapture** of the Church (Rev. 4)
- 4) The **Rejoicing** in Heaven (Rev. 5)
- 5) The **Review** of the Tribulation (Rev. 6)
- 6) The **Retribution** (or Punishment) During the Tribulation (Rev. 7-18)
- 7) The **Return** of Jesus into Planet Earth (Rev. 19)
- 8) The **Reign** of Jesus for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-6)
- 9) The **Release** of Satan (Rev. 20:7-10)
- 10) The **Reckoning** of the Wicked Dead – Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15)
- 11) The **Restoration** of the Whole Universe (Rev. 21:1-7)
- 12) The **Rewards** of God's People in Heaven (Rev. 21:9-22)

The next event on God's timeline is the rapture of the Church (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:51-52).

The word "church" does not appear from Revelation 4-22 in reference to the events of the Great Tribulation. This is also an indication that God's people will be raptured before the Tribulation occurs.

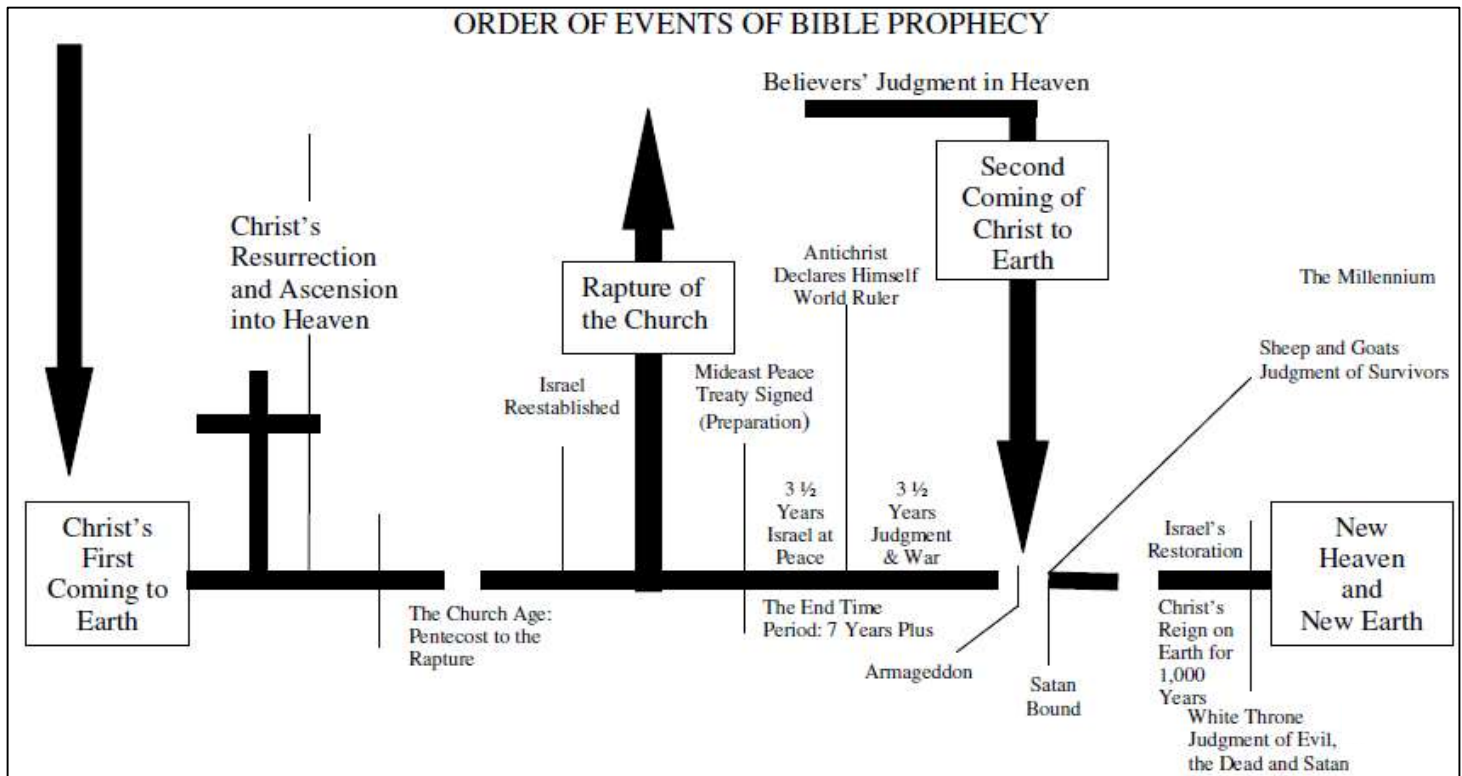


Chart Source: Dr. Daniel Akin

3. The Objectives *(why study?)*

- To see the fulfilment of Scripture from Genesis to Revelation.
- To realize the purpose of God's future plans.
 - Crowning Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords.
- To express hope in stressful or turbulent times.
 - Suffering is temporary. It is not God's ultimate plan.
 - God is in control of world events.

4. Our Obedience (Rev. 1:3)

The beatitude in 1:3 is the first of seven beatitudes in Revelation. (The others are found in 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14.) It virtually reproduces the words of Jesus in Luke 11:28, "Blessed ... are those who hear the word of God and obey it!" The public reading of Scripture was taken over from Jewish practice (Neh 8:2; Luke 4:16; Acts 13:15; cf. Col 4:16; 1 Thess 5:27). At first the reader was probably someone chosen from the congregation who had acquired some proficiency in the art. Later the office of reader became an official position in the church. That the congregation was to "take to heart" the things written in the prophecy indicates that the work was considered to be moral instruction, not simply prediction.¹

Obedience to God brings blessing (Luke 11:28), long life (1 Kings 3:14), happiness (Psalms 112:1; 119:56), peace (Proverbs 1:33), and a state of well-being (Jeremiah 7:23; see also Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 4:40; 12:28; 28:1-14; Joshua 1:8; 1 Chronicles 22:13; Isaiah 1:19).

John 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commandments."

¹ Robert H. Mounce, *The Book of Revelation*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1997), 43.