

The background of the book cover is a cosmic scene. In the bottom left corner, the curved horizon of the Earth is visible, showing blue oceans and white clouds. In the center-right, there is a small, spherical celestial body with a bright, fiery orange and yellow surface, possibly a planet or a moon. The rest of the background is a deep space filled with stars and nebulae in shades of purple, blue, and orange.

ANSWERS *to the*
UNSOLVED
MYSTERIES
of **PROPHECY**

DR. DAVID JEREMIAH



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INTRODUCTION

The study of End Times can cause questions, apprehension, and fear. “Why do I need to study prophecy?” “It is too complicated, and I don’t understand what it means.” “It makes me anxious and nervous.” I will not argue with the fact that studying prophecy can be complex and overwhelming. It is difficult to see how these obscure passages can have any significance for us today. They appear to lack relevance to what we are going through right now.

If we continue with this mindset, we will miss the rich truth God has provided for us. We cannot understand where we are now if we don’t understand where we are going. To help you gain an understanding and appreciation for this difficult topic, I have compiled a booklet of the most frequently asked questions about biblical prophecy. In order to answer these puzzling and debatable questions, I have opened the Scriptures as my one and only source.

I encourage you to study God’s plan for the future. What you believe about many of these issues can determine what side you are on when God decides to draw the final curtain on the drama of history. I am confident you will find, as I have, that studying and understanding the events of tomorrow will change your view of today!

Awaiting His return,
David Jeremiah

WATCH

therefore,

FOR YOU

DO NOT

KNOW

WHAT HOUR

YOUR LORD

IS COMING.

MATTHEW 24:42

act 1

THE RAPTURE: TO TAKE HIS CHURCH HOME

Christ's coming is fast approaching. The Lord will descend with a shout and the trumpet of God. All believers, living and dead, will suddenly meet the Lord in the air. Like an eager bride, the Church waits for the final culmination of the union with her Groom.

Excerpt from *Until Christ Returns*:

As bad as it is today in our world, it could (and will) get worse. A restraining influence in our world holds this evil—this dark satanic tide of perversion and lawlessness—in check. Who has the power to restrain Satan? Only God. And it is God the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, who draws the line today and keeps the ocean of evil at bay.

(Chapter 3, “Do Not Be Troubled,” page 57)

WHAT SIGNS INDICATE THAT THE END TIMES ARE NEAR?

The Rapture is the next event on the prophetic calendar. The following signs cast their shadows before them and indicate that the End Times are near.

The Sign of Deception

Many people are going to claim to be the Messiah and claim to have the answers for a troubled world. Jesus says to “take heed”—literally, to keep our eyes open so we are not fooled. In the End Times, people will be crying desperately for leaders to deliver them, and they will seek mystics and religious leaders who claim to have deeper knowledge.

The Sign of Disputes Among Nations

As wars and dissension among groups of people begin to escalate, we know it is a sign of Christ’s return. The book of Revelation tells us that the Tribulation period is filled with war—ceaseless, unending, terrible war—that will escalate until the entire world is involved. Fifty percent of all research scientists today are involved in arms development. Despite all the arms limitations treaties, there is at least one military weapon and four thousand pounds of explosives for every man, woman, and child on earth. The Bible says that as we move toward the End Times, there will be constant talk of conflicts, border skirmishes, race wars, and national battles.

The Sign of Devastation

Today, as you read this, millions of people in the world are going hungry, even though God has blessed us with a fruitful, abundant planet. As we get closer to the End

Times, there will be more and more famine. There will also be earthquakes, something that science has said will happen. Christ also spoke of pestilence: the spread of new diseases. Our world is experiencing a spate of tragic new diseases that we are unable to control.

The Sign of Deliverance Into the Tribulation

Just before Jesus returns, there will be an explosion of antagonism toward God's people. Christians will be persecuted. I think we are already seeing it. The media holds most fringe groups in high regard, but it seems to attack conservative Christians every chance it gets. Many are going to pay a high price for living out their faith in our world.

AS CHRISTIANS, HOW SHOULD WE PREPARE FOR THE APPROACHING END TIMES?

Stand Fast (2 Thessalonians 2:15)

This is not a time to go running after new doctrine. This is not the time to be exploring new ideas about theology. Stand fast in the truth that you know. If there has ever been a time for us to be unequivocal about our truth, this is it. The buzzword today is “tolerance.” But I want to be only as tolerant as God is, and God is quite *intolerant* of what is not true.

Hold On (2 Thessalonians 2:15)

The daily news can discourage us. But in the midst of it all, there is Jesus and His encouragement. We need to cultivate our relationship with Him until He is not just one of the things in our life, but He is the one thing in our life—the focus of who we are.

Work Hard (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; Luke 19:13, KJV)

The objective of Christians is not only to go to heaven, but to take as many people with us as we can. Share the Gospel, teach children, build one another up, strengthen one another, encourage those who are fallen, and reach out to those who are hurting. In every good work, “occupy till I come,” said the Lord. This is no time for idleness. This is a time for us to seek the truth and live it out every day.

Excerpt from *What in the World Is Going On?:*

In spite of the high value I place on understanding future events, I find that studying prophecy has an even higher and more practical value. It provides a compelling motivation for living the Christian life. The immediacy of prophetic events shows the need to live each moment in Christlike readiness.

(Chapter 10, “The Return of the King,” page 232)

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RAPTURE AND THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST?

The Rapture:

The Church, including the dead in Christ and those who are alive in Christ, meets with Christ in the air. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:4; 1 Peter 1:3-7; Titus 2:11-13). “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:17). The Rapture of the Church takes place between Revelation chapters 3 and 4. Christ raptures His Church up into heaven before the Tribulation to remove the Christians from the coming judgment on the earth (1 Thessalonians 5:9).

The Second Coming:

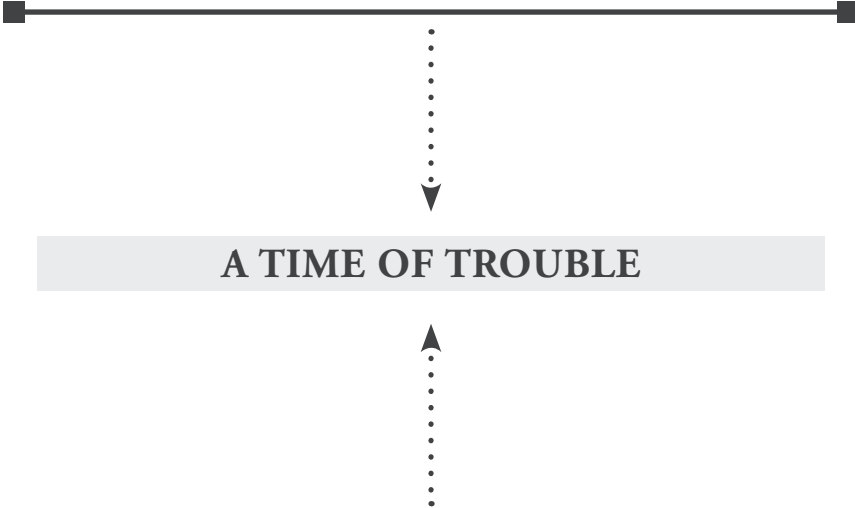
Jesus comes in power and great glory at the end of the Tribulation. He will come in judgment and will reign on this earth during the Millennium. At this time, everyone will know He is King. “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matthew 24:29-31).

Excerpt from *Escape the Coming Night*:

Christ will return not only to reward His own, but to judge the world. Between His first appearance and His second, will be a time of trouble. Then following Christ's Second Advent and the Millennium, will occur the judgment of all those who rejected Him. This will not be a judgment for believers, for they have already stood before the judgment seat. This will be a judgment with no parole, no lenient sentence, and no pleas of insanity.

(Chapter 1, "Warnings Ignored," page 27)

CHRIST'S FIRST APPEARANCE



A TIME OF TROUBLE

CHRIST'S SECOND APPEARANCE

THE JUDGMENT
OF ALL WHO REJECTED HIM

WHAT EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE IN HEAVEN AFTER THE RAPTURE?

After the Rapture, we will come before the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10). The Judgment Seat is not about whether we will enter heaven—we'll already be there because our sins have been atoned for in the substitutionary death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It will, however, be a time to give an account of the works we have done on earth, and we will be rewarded accordingly. We'll be assigned places of authority in the coming Millennium based upon our faithfulness to God when we were on earth, as well as the influence we left behind.

WILL I BE A PART OF THE RAPTURE IF MY BODY HAS BEEN CREMATED?

When the Scripture says, “The dead in Christ will rise,” it is speaking of the bodily resurrection of believers. At this time, the spirits of believers will be united with their perfect and complete resurrection bodies. “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first [no exceptions!]. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).

If God can do the hard part of calling creation into existence through His spoken words, then it will be no problem for Him to call back the bodies of those who have been swept into the sea, or consumed by fire, or tragically maimed and murdered by vicious and murderous attacks of an enemy.

WHY SHOULD I AVOID DETERMINING A DATE AND TIME FOR THE RAPTURE?

The fact is, we cannot calculate the day Christ will return for His Church because God specifically chose not to reveal it to us.

When the apostles asked Jesus about apocalyptic time, He replied gently but firmly, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (Acts 1:7-8). Only God knows what time it is, and only God knows when these times will run out. God’s calendar is the only one that matters (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2; Matthew 24:36, 42, 44, 50; Matthew 25:13).

Future truth impacts present responsibility. It is the knowledge that His coming is soon that puts a little bit of urgency into our step and a little bit of determination into our service.

act 2

THE TRIBULATION:

TO ALLOW UNRESTRAINED EVIL

The moment after the Rapture, the Spirit of God will remove any restraining influence on earth. As a result, life on earth will be relinquished to flourishing evil. As the Tribulation progresses, evil will result in a climax of worsening conditions. God's wrath will be displayed toward the wicked through the signs of His coming judgment. Thankfully, those who are believers at the time of the Rapture will be spared from this terrible time.

Excerpt from *Escape the Coming Night*:

The hour-hand on God's timeclock is wound up and spinning. We are being swept along the path of history by a swift wind at our backs. Our individual ability to weather the storm will come from our understanding of the Word of God. We need only heed what has echoed through the centuries: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Revelation 3:22).

(Chapter 5, "The Lukewarm Church in the Last Days," page 82)

WHAT SIGNS WILL WARN OF THE APPROACHING TRIBULATION PERIOD?

These ten events are the things we can expect in embryonic form in the days preceding the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation. These ten things will continue to multiply and progress as the first 3^{1/2} years of the Great Tribulation unfold.

A Time of Deception—“Many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many” (Matthew 24:5).

A Time of Dissension—“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars . . . Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom” (Matthew 24:6-7).

A Time of Devastation—“There will be famines . . .” (Matthew 24:7).

A Time of Disease—“ . . . pestilences . . .” (Matthew 24:7).

A Time of Disasters—“ . . . and earthquakes in various places” (Matthew 24:7).

A Time of Death—“They will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake” (Matthew 24:9).

A Time of Disloyalty—“Many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another” (Matthew 24:10).

A Time of Delusion—“Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many” (Matthew 24:11). It should also be noted that part of the delusion will be an increase in drug use. One of the characteristics of the End Times’ false religion will

be what the book of Revelation calls “sorceries” (9:21). The word John uses is *pharmakia*, from which we get the word *pharmacy*. It is an ancient reference to the ingestion of drugs. The use of mind-altering substances such as narcotics and hallucinogens will be associated with false religions, doubtless with the approval of the government.

A Time of Defection—“Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold” (Matthew 24:12). People will turn away from God and from each other.

A Time of Declaration—“This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations” (Matthew 24:14).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON EARTH DURING THE TRIBULATION?

The moment after the Rapture, the Spirit of God will remove any restraining influence on earth so that things will be far, far worse even than today (2 Thessalonians 2:7). This is a seven-year period described in Revelation 6-18. Approximately the first 3½ years of that time, there will be the climax of worsening conditions, the anger of God against the wicked, and the signs of Christ's coming. During the last 3½ years, the "lawless one"—the Antichrist—will be empowered to sit at the center of the Tribulation's evil as he personifies Satan.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN HEAVEN DURING THE TRIBULATION?

The Christians are in heaven. God is seated on the throne, which is surrounded by a rainbow of emerald greens. The twenty-four elders representing the church-age saints sit around the throne. Before the throne is a sea of glass. In the midst of the throne are the four living creatures, and singing praise to the One on the throne are the angels and the Church. This is the worship of the glorified Christ, the Creator of the world. God is just about to deal with the physical earth in judgment, and before He does, the Creator of earth is worshiped by the Church in heaven. Thunder, lightning, and voices signify the judgment which is about to fall on the earth.

**THE CREATOR OF THE EARTH IS
WORSHIPED
BY THE CHURCH IN HEAVEN**

WILL CHRISTIANS ESCAPE THE TRIBULATION?

Yes, Christians will escape the seven-year nightmare of the Tribulation (Revelation 3:10).

I believe the Bible clearly teaches that one of the coming great events in the fulfillment of prophecy concerns the Church. This is the personal, bodily return of the Lord to remove from earth His waiting Church and to reward them according to their works. This will take place before the Tribulation period during which time the judgments of God will be poured out upon the unbelieving world.

I believe the following Scriptures support the imminent return of Christ for His Church prior to the Tribulation than during or after it: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-12; Matthew 24:29-31; Revelation 21.

Excerpt from *The Handwriting on the Wall*:

“Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3, NIV). In the midst of all the difficult times, the horror of the Tribulation, God has some special things that He has reserved for those who serve Him. He says they are to become like stars in His galaxy!

(Chapter 20, “The End Times,” page 240)

WHAT NATURAL DISASTERS WILL OCCUR ON EARTH DURING THE TRIBULATION?

The sun will turn black, the moon will turn red, and great earthquakes will be common.

Revelation 6:12 says, “Behold, there was a great earthquake.” It also says, “The sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood.” When Jesus died on the cross, the whole earth became dark at midday. When Egypt was judged, there was a blackness of night. When the Lord came down at Mt. Sinai, the mountain was shrouded in black clouds. The prophets, as well, said darkness would occur at the beginning of the Tribulation period.

The stars will fall out of the sky.

“The stars of heaven fell to the earth” (Revelation 6:13). The word “star” here is the Greek word *aster* and it refers to luminous bodies in the sky other than the sun and moon. Clearly these “stars” are not the distant stellar objects we know as stars but more like a group of asteroids.

The mountains and islands will move.

“Every mountain and island was moved out of its place” (Revelation 6:14). When the asteroids hit the earth, the possibility is that the earth’s crust will be so disturbed by the impact that great segments of it will actually begin to slip and slide over the earth’s mantle. According to Dr. Henry Morris, those living in the regions above such shifting will observe the heavens appearing to move in the opposite direction, as if they are being “rolled up.”

The ocean will become blood.

As Revelation 8:8-9 explains, a great mountain burning with fire is cast into the sea. The sea will become blood and one-third of all sea life will die. There will also be the destruction of one-third of all the ships. The far-reaching implications of these judgments are beyond our understanding. Someone has reasoned that the oceans occupy about 3/4 of the earth's surface, so the extent of this judgment will be staggering. The pollution of the water and the death of so many sea creatures will vastly affect the balance of life in the ocean. This will happen to 1/3 of the saltwater bodies of the world.

The water will become poisoned.

Then the freshwater supplies will be affected. They become bitter, with the result that many people will die (Revelation 8:10-11). The instrument of judgment will be a great star that is labeled "Wormwood." This literal star or meteor hurtling through space will approach the earth. Sweeping along the surface of the earth, it will turn 1/3 of the water of the earth into a deadly poisonous liquid. It will affect the rivers, springs, and wells.

The condition of the Gospel going to the whole world is a condition not of the Rapture, but of the Second Coming of Christ.

THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL HEAR THE GOSPEL BEFORE CHRIST RETURNS. JESUS COULD COME AT ANY TIME. HOW CAN BOTH OF THESE STATEMENTS BE TRUE?

He could come tonight! You may hear people say that the Rapture cannot occur until the whole world has heard the Gospel; therefore, we need to preach the Gospel to every creature so that the “last person to be saved” is brought into the kingdom, at which time Jesus will return for His Church. This cannot be true.

If there is anything that has yet to happen before Christ’s return, then there is no such thing as the “imminent return” of Jesus Christ. The command to take the Gospel into the whole world is certainly pressing upon every generation, but the condition of the Gospel going to the whole world is a condition not of the Rapture, but of the Second Coming of Christ.

WILL PEOPLE BE SAVED DURING THE TRIBULATION?

Yes, there will be a great harvest of souls for Christ during the Tribulation. In this harvest of souls, we see fulfilled the prophecy contained in Matthew 24:14—“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come”—the Second Coming of Christ!

People from every nation, tribe, and language will be part of the great redeemed multitude. This is a time of the greatest suffering and persecution the world has ever seen, and it will also be a time when the greatest wave of genuine conversions ever take place. This multitude of redeemed ones will come from those who were still unsaved at the time of the Rapture.

Today there are at least two billion people who have never heard or understood enough of the Gospel to accept or reject it. Those who will be saved during the Tribulation will come from this great number. Those who are saved during the Tribulation will be saved on exactly the same basis as those before the Tribulation, which is by the death and justifying resurrection of the Son of God.

HOW WILL PEOPLE BE SAVED DURING THE TRIBULATION?

If there are no believers on earth at the beginning of the seven years of the Tribulation, this is a good question. As we will discuss in upcoming pages, there will be two witnesses and 144,000 sealed Israelites who will proclaim the truth during the Tribulation. In addition, Dr. Henry Morris suggests a “silent witness” because “millions upon millions of copies of the Bible and Bible portions . . . will not [be] remove[d] and multitudes will no doubt be constrained to read the Bible in those days . . . [and] will turn to their Creator and Savior.” These blood-bought believers will begin to warn others of even more severe judgment to come. They will preach repentance and judgment and they will be killed for their message.

IF SOMEONE BECOMES A CHRISTIAN DURING THE TRIBULATION, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM WHEN THEY DIE?

The Lord sends an angel for their own special blessing: Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord (Revelation 14:13). Just as the New Testament begins with the Beatitudes of Jesus for the living, it ends with the Beatitude of Jesus for the dying. Revelation 14:13 is the second of the seven Beatitudes found in the book of Revelation. Even though these words are particularly written for those who die during the Tribulation, they are also words of encouragement for the saints of every generation. The believer does not die in the sense of death being the end; he is simply waiting for the coming of the Lord. Blessed are those who have gone to sleep in Jesus.

IF I CAN BE SAVED DURING THE TRIBULATION, WHY SHOULD I CHANGE MY LIFE NOW?

Just as death terminates the day of possible salvation for those who reject Christ, so does the Rapture. Those who have heard the Gospel message and have rejected it will be given a “strong delusion” during the Tribulation. Second Thessalonians 2:10-11, KJV tells us, “Because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” Revelation 13 tells us it will be the lies of the Beast and the Antichrist, who fabricate the life of Christ and bring deception. Believing these deceptions, the day of grace will be over for the people who have rejected the Gospel before the Tribulation.

Be warned: You had better not wait to become a Christian. I've heard people reason like this before, but I have to wonder about someone's legitimate desire to know God if it is coupled with a desire to beat the system. Do not let anyone tell you that you can beat the system by waiting to become a Christian until the Tribulation. It won't happen. You'll be deceived. It's amazing, but the more the Tribulation grows in intensity, the more people will reject God. You'd think they would turn to Him and cry for mercy, but instead they will curse Him who sends judgment on the earth.

The Bible says today is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2). Don't try to get around God's plan. Don't think you can beat the system. One day soon the Lord is coming back, and if you have already rejected Him, the day of opportunity will be gone.

IS IT TRUE THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO KILL HIMSELF DURING THE TRIBULATION?

TRUE

Even though men will seek to die and suicide will be attempted, apparently death will not be possible during a five-month period described in the fifth trumpet judgment: "In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them" (Revelation 9:6).

It will be such an awful experience for those who are left to endure the result of countless demons from the pit running unchecked throughout the earth. The only people these demons are allowed to sting are those who do not belong to God (verse 4). The poison from the sting will literally set the nerve center on fire (verse 10). This evil will be stretched out for 150 days (verse 10) and death cannot provide escape (verse 6).

WILL PROMISCUITY BE PREVALENT ON EARTH DURING THE TRIBULATION?

When divine restraint is withdrawn during the Tribulation, human passions will break loose and morality will be discarded in favor of liberty and promiscuity (Revelation 22:15). The result will be nothing less than rampant immorality.

WHO ARE THE TWO WITNESSES THAT WILL PREACH THE GOSPEL DURING THE TRIBULATION?

I believe one witness to be Elijah the prophet, reincarnated. In Malachi 3:1-3 and 4:5-6 we are told that Elijah will come before Jesus returns. This prophecy is fulfilled in Revelation 11. Another reason I believe it to be Elijah is because Elijah didn't die. Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind of fire. Elijah also uses the same sign in the Tribulation as he used when he was a prophet. In 1 Kings 17, Elijah stopped the rain; and in Revelation 11:6, he is seen to "have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls

in the days of their prophecy.” It is also significant that Elijah appeared with Moses in the Transfiguration.

Who is the second witness? I believe it to be Moses for these reasons: Moses and Elijah had already been paired together at the Transfiguration. Moses performed the second half of the miracles where we see Elijah performing the first. For example, Elijah shut heaven and Moses turned waters to blood. Moses died, but no one knows where his body is buried (Deuteronomy 34:5-6). The body of Moses was preserved by God so that he might be restored. In the Jewish culture, the Law and the prophets are understood. Moses is the Law, and Elijah is the prophet.

It is impossible to prove conclusively who these two witnesses are. But, if they are not these two men, we can know that they are very much like them and have the same kind of ministry.

WHEN WILL THESE WITNESSES APPEAR?

In Revelation 11:3, we are introduced to the two witnesses. There is much debate as to when these witnesses appear on the scene. I believe they begin their ministry at the beginning of the Tribulation, at the time the Antichrist makes his covenant with the Jewish people. We can assume they will have a great following.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE WITNESSES?

Three-and-one-half years into the Tribulation, they will be killed by the Beast who ascends from the bottomless pit. The two witnesses will be so hated that the entire world will rejoice at their deaths. Their bodies will be put on public display and will lie in the street for 3½ days. In biblical Jewish society this was an abomination. Their enemies will be ecstatic that someone has finally put an end to these two nemeses.

They are already decomposing, and the next action we see is that they stand up! The whole world will see this because they are looking in on the scene through the news and the papers. While they are the focus of world attention, they are not only resurrected, they are raptured (Revelation 11:12). They go up to heaven in “a cloud.” This cloud is the *shekinah* glory of God. It is the same cloud that the angel of Revelation 10:1 was clothed in.

IF SATAN WAS DEFEATED AT THE CROSS, WHY DOES HE APPEAR TO BE WINNING?

The ultimate victory has been won at Calvary, but it will be implemented in the future (John 16:11). The sentence has been passed, now it needs to be enforced. The enforcement is in the hands of the Church. The tool that enforces Satan’s defeat is the tool of prayer. “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the

knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). One person praying on earth can move angels in heaven.

Christians need to learn the power of prayer against Satan, and that he will be defeated in his work. We are not engaged in the warfare if we are not praying against Satan. The judgment that was effected at the Cross, and is enforced through prayer, will be completed. Satan is doomed. But if we don't enforce that judgment in our own lives, we will be victims instead of victors.

WHAT IS THE “UNHOLY TRINITY”?

The “unholy trinity” is a counterfeit of the holy Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Satan is the first person and the father of the unholy trinity. The Antichrist is the second person and the son of the unholy trinity. The False Prophet is the third person of the unholy trinity, whose function is to imitate the true work of the Holy Spirit in directing praise to the person of Christ by directing the worship and praise of the people to the Antichrist (Revelation 13:11-12).

PEOPLE	HOLY	UNHOLY
1	Father	Satan
2	Son	Antichrist
3	Holy Spirit	False Prophet

The Antichrist will be a charismatic leader who will be able to sway the masses with his speaking ability. Daniel 7 says that he will have “a mouth speaking pompous words” (verse 8). “He shall speak great words against the Most High” (verse 25, KJV). “And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies” (Revelation 13:5). The Antichrist will be noted in his career for wonderful eloquence, and will be able to capture the attention and admiration of the world. Because of his ability as an orator, he will stand in front of the world’s people and galvanize them into a mighty force.

Daniel 7:20 describes the Antichrist as one “whose appearance was greater than his fellows.” With his great magnetic personality, this man will cause people to flock to him. Daniel 7:8 says that, “in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man.” Verse 20 speaks of his eyes again. This refers to his mental ability, his intellect, his cleverness, and his uncommon wisdom.

The Antichrist is represented as a Beast—an appropriate title for him (Revelation 13:1-18). During the last 3½ years of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will personify Satan himself. Second Thessalonians 2:9 says, “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders.”

HOW DOES THE ANTICHRIST GAIN POLITICAL POWER?

His rise to power is inconspicuous. It will not be noticed in the beginning, and will hardly raise the attention even of those who are closest to the center of action. He will rise up out of the masses. John says, “Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns . . .” (Revelation 13:1). Usually in the book of Revelation, when you see the word “sea,” it has a reference to the rising up from the masses of people.

Whatever power the Antichrist has, he only has it by virtue of the fact that he is allowed to have it by Almighty God. As bad as the Tribulation is, it is never out of God’s control. There is a leash on Satan, and God is holding on to the other end of the leash. Satan will be able to do only that which God allows him to do in the consummation of the end of the age.

Excerpt from *What in the World Is Going On?:*

The combination of magnetic personality, speaking ability, and extreme good looks will make him virtually irresistible to the masses. When he comes on the scene, people will flock to him like flies to honey, and they will fall over themselves to do anything he asks.

(Chapter 7, “When One Man Rules the World,” page 148)

WHO WILL WORSHIP THE ANTICHRIST?

According to Revelation 13:8, “All who dwell on the earth will worship him.” Daniel 7:25 tells us that the Antichrist is a cultic leader. “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High . . . and shall intend to change times and law.” He will speak out against the true God of heaven. The language suggests that he will try to raise himself to the level of God and make declarations from that position.

Second Thessalonians 2:4 says of the Antichrist, “Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.” He will accept the worship of the peoples of the world.

WHAT WILL THE ANTICHRIST DO TO THE CHRISTIANS WHO ARE ON EARTH DURING THE TRIBULATION?

There will be believers on earth when the Antichrist is there, and it says he will wear them out with persecutions. They will be martyred for their faith. (The believers of our present age will be in heaven.) The expression used for this wearing out is one of wearing out garments, a slow process. The program of the Antichrist will be one of property seizure, economic squeeze, mark of the Beast, torture, and murder.

WHAT IS THE MARK OF THE BEAST?

The mark of the Beast is 666. We can't identify the exact significance of the mark, but there are some general things we can say about it: The number six is the number of man, as it says in Revelation 13:18. Man was created on the sixth day. He is to work six out of seven days. A Hebrew slave could not be a slave more than six years. The Jews' fields could not be sown for more than six years running. The number 666 is man to the triple.

Perhaps the Beast in his number 666 represents the ultimate in human ingenuity and competence. The Antichrist is all about putting together man's last fling at ruling the world. He raises up this image, requiring it to be stamped on every human alive at that time.

The word used for the mark of the Beast is the Greek word *charagma*. In antiquity, this word was always associated with the Roman Emperor. It often contained the Emperor's name, his effigy, and the year of his reign. It was necessary for buying and selling, and was required to be affixed to documents to attest to their validity.

“He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name” (Revelation 13:16-17).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THOSE WHO REFUSE THE MARK OF THE BEAST?

Those who refuse to receive the mark of the Beast will suffer the wrath of the Antichrist. But Revelation 19:19-21 warns that all who receive the mark of the Beast will suffer eternal judgment at the hand of God.

Babylon is God's name for the world's system of the Beast. Worship the Beast and be damned by God, or worship God and be damned by the Beast. According to the system organized by the Beast, if you don't wear his mark, you can't buy, sell, work, or function. The angel announces that if you do wear the mark of the Beast, you have consigned yourself to eternal fire, damnation, and separation from God. There is no in-between ground.

The torment of those who worship the Beast will last forever. The mark of the Beast indicates that the one wearing it is a worshiper of the Beast and submits to his rule. To be without the mark is to be labeled a traitor. The people who do not have the mark will be killed, or perhaps starved simply because they will not be able to get the food and other things they need to stay alive (Revelation 14:9-11).

The angel announces that if you do wear the mark of the Beast, you have consigned yourself to eternal fire, damnation, and separation from God.

HOW WILL THE BEAST BE DEFEATED?

Satan allows the Beast to appear to be killed. But the head wound will be healed, and the world will be so astonished they will follow him. Once again the imitator is at work. He will feign the Resurrection. This is Satan's last fling. He will use everything at his disposal to take as many people to hell with him as he can.

Just when it seems there is no hope, when the bottom is finally reached and evil rules, the Second Coming will victoriously come about and God's Son will dethrone the Beast. Christ will intervene in the Battle of Armageddon, have victory, and the nations and Israel will now be judged (Matthew 25:31-46). Christ will institute His thousand-year rule, and the Millennium will begin (Revelation 20:1-6).

WHO IS THE FALSE PROPHET?

In reality the False Prophet is a Satan-possessed man who exercises authority and military power in the name of the Antichrist. He does miraculous things to cause the whole world to bow down and worship the Antichrist and his image. Jesus says in Matthew 7:15, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves." The False Prophet in Revelation is the epitome of every false prophet who has gone before him. We need to be warned against false prophets who come with the voice and personality and calmness of a lamb, but speak the words of Satan himself.

WHAT WILL THE FALSE PROPHET LOOK LIKE?

According to Revelation 13:11, he has the voice of a dragon, and two horns like a lamb. Why would Satan design the False Prophet to look like a lamb? He is continuing the counterfeiting ministry of doing everything he can to deceive people into thinking that the False Prophet lamb is the Lamb who was slain before the foundation of the world.

WHAT POWERS WILL THE FALSE PROPHET HAVE?

The False Prophet will be the Antichrist's religious leader and will have the power to counterfeit the miracles of God according to Revelation 13:13. The specific miracle mentioned in the text is the calling down of fire from heaven. The False Prophet may be trying to imitate Elijah calling down fire on Mount Carmel. His goal will be to make people think he *is* Elijah, who is coming before the great and terrible day of the Lord. He deceives people into building an image as a central point of worship for the Beast. With his occultic powers, he will enable the image to speak.

Excerpt from *What in the World Is Going On?:*

The Antichrist will aggressively live up to his terrible name. He will be Satan's Superman, who persecutes, tortures, and kills the people of God and leads the armies of the world into the climactic Battle of Armageddon. He will be the most powerful dictator the world has ever seen, making Caesar, Hitler, Mao, and Saddam seem weak and tame by comparison.

(Chapter 7, "When One Man Rules the World," pages 142-143)

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE 144,000 ISRAELITES MENTIONED IN REVELATION?

During the Tribulation, God will have sent His two witnesses into the world to prophesy and perform mighty miracles. There will be 144,000 Israelites "sealed" for God's service during this period (Revelation 7:4). The 144,000 Israelites will become evangelists and shall see a great harvest of souls during these terrible Tribulation days. It is hard to imagine the impact 144,000 Spirit-filled Jews might have on the world. Their power from the Holy Spirit enables them to have great courage and bravery as they give witness to the Word and testify to salvation in Jesus Christ. Twelve Spirit-filled Jews turned their world upside down. Imagine the magnitude of the revival that will take place during the Tribulation.

They are 144,000 of all the tribes of the children of Israel. In the seventh chapter of Revelation, the Holy Spirit declares the names of the tribes in order to avoid confusion. There are 12,000 from each tribe. They will be preserved so that they will not be killed. People will hear their message and will be saved. The reward given to the 144,000 is for the faithfulness they exemplified in walking after God and doing what God told them to do.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE MEAN BY 144,000 VIRGINS?

The word “virgin” is not used as a physical description. As we see in 2 Corinthians 11:2, a virgin can symbolize one who has a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. These 144,000 are separated from pollution and corruption on the earth. They are virgins unto God. They have given themselves in pure devotion to the Lord. They are truly a separated and sanctified group of people. They are pure in their ministry. They are not soiled with the pollution of the world. That’s the kind of witness God craves, no matter what generation we live in. The more godly we are, the more God can use us. Perhaps the greatest preparation we can make for ministry is the preparation of our own hearts in righteousness and holiness before God.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN THE BIBLE SAYS THE 144,000 ARE SEALED WITH THE MARK OF GOD?

Revelation 7:3-4 explains that the 144,000 evangelists are preserved in their ministry by the Spirit of God. They have the Father's name written prominently on their foreheads.

It is death not to have the mark of the Beast written on one's head during the time of the Tribulation. But during the Tribulation, 144,000 people will be walking around *without* 666 written on them, and they will not be dead. They will not be neutral; they will be aggressive. They won't just be walking around without the mark, they'll be walking around with their own forbidden mark. They don't want anyone to be in doubt as to who they belong to. They have God's mark on them, and it's evident to everyone.

It is death to have the mark of God, but these preachers confess Christ and are unashamed of Him. And they are preserved. They have come all the way through the Tribulation preaching the Gospel. They are all still alive. God sealed them (Revelation 7, 14). When you are God's person, in God's will, you are immortal until God is finished with you. God is in control. That doesn't mean that you should live life recklessly, but it means that God has committed Himself to preserve you throughout your ministry.

WILL THERE BE CONSEQUENCES ON EARTH FOR THOSE WHO WORSHIP THE BEAST?

Revelation 16:2 is the record of terrible sores upon those who have taken the mark of the Beast and worshiped his image. The sores reflected on these rebels symbolize that they worship Satan.

Those who have taken the mark of the Beast up until this time appear to be religious people. They identify with the great religious regime of their day. But in this awful moment of judgment when the bowls are turned over on earth, the sores will be another mark of identification to demonstrate that they are rebelling against God. It's as if God causes the poison of the rebellion within these people to surface and be manifested in sores all over their bodies.

There are also six other disasters on earth at this time. These disasters are carrying out the judgment of God. The remaining part of the sea will turn to blood, rivers and streams become blood, the sun scorches people with fire, the earth will be in darkness, the Euphrates River will completely dry up, and thunder, lightning, and hailstones weighing ten pounds will fall from the sky.

WILL THOSE WHO WORSHIP THE ANTICHRIST EXPERIENCE ANYTHING LIKE THE OLD TESTAMENT PLAGUES IN EGYPT?

It's possible that the plague of sores is a fulfillment of an Old Testament prophecy. When God visited Egypt with the plagues, the sixth plague was very similar to that which takes place here in Revelation 16:2. The Bible describes the plague as "boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt" (Exodus 9:9).

The prophecy was given by Moses when he repeated the law before the people of Israel. The curse of sores was pronounced upon those who would refuse to follow the law and would follow instead after strange gods. As far as we know, this prophecy was never totally fulfilled in Israel's history. But these in the Tribulation who have followed after the Antichrist will see this prophecy fulfilled through their affliction.

The judgment that is mentioned in Revelation 16:10-11 is a plague of darkness. Once again, it is reminiscent of the plagues of Egypt. Just as the sores of the first plague are a symbol of the inner infection of those who bear them, this outer darkness is a reflection of the darkness of heart and soul of those who deny God.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF ARMAGEDDON?

Why would God allow such a terrible campaign to take place? First, this is the time of indignation upon the people

of Israel for rejecting their Messiah and failing to heed the judgment of God. The Jews are being punished for their rebellion. Second, the nations will be judged for their persecution of the Jews. God says in Joel 3:2 that He is going to bring together all the nations that have persecuted Israel and punish them for the way they have treated His people, Israel. Third, God is going to use this as a time to judge all the nations for their sinfulness.

WHAT WILL ARMAGEDDON BE LIKE?

When determining the characteristics of Armageddon, it is important to realize that it is not the only End Times battle. In fact, Armageddon is preceded by the Battle of Gog and Magog. Before looking at the details of Armageddon, it is crucial to break down the details leading up to this battle.

After the Church is raptured to heaven, the seven-year Tribulation will begin. The ruler of the European nations, the Antichrist, will make a peace treaty with Israel ensuring her safety from the surrounding Arab nations. During this time, Israel will be attacked by “the north” (Russia, Iran, and allies), but they are stopped and defeated by God’s use of confusion, disease, and natural disaster. This is known as the Battle of Gog and Magog. The Bible says it will take seven months to bury all the bodies from this horrible battle.

After this battle, the Antichrist is rising in power. He is demanding that everyone worship him. But he makes his fatal mistake when he threatens death for those who refuse to comply. Soon the “king of the South” (Africa) and “the

king of the North” (Russia and her allies) determine to attack the Antichrist (Daniel 11:40). They move against him in the attempt to remove him from power. Soon an enormous army from the East (Asia) joins the efforts of those from the North and the South. With attack pending from every direction, the armies neglect the idea of looking up.

At just the last minute, the Lord Jesus Christ descends on a white horse with the armies of heaven (Revelation 19:11-16). The armies quickly forget about each other and band together to fight against the Lord. In one dramatic moment, Christ brings a conclusion to the Battle of Armageddon. He throws the Beast and the False Prophet into the Lake of Fire and establishes His Kingdom on earth.

WHO WILL BE HERE TO EXPERIENCE ARMAGEDDON?

These who are left on the earth after the removal of the Church are those who have spurned the blood of Jesus; they have spurned the witness of the prophets who came before Jesus and the apostles who came after Him; they have spurned the Gospel message that has been spread; they have spurned the witness of the 144,000 who preached to them; they have spurned the two witnesses who preached to them; they have spurned the witness of the angel who flew across the skies to witness to them; and there is no longer any alternative. The judgment of God is here.

act 3

THE SECOND COMING: TO JUDGE THE WORLD

THE SECOND COMING

Following the rule of the Antichrist, it is reassuring to know that Christ will return to rule and reign over the earth and to judge the world in righteousness.

Excerpt from *What in the World Is Going On?:*

When Jesus arrives on earth the second time, His landing will dramatically herald the purpose of His coming. The moment His feet touch the Mount of Olives, the mountain will split apart, creating a broad passageway from Jerusalem to Jericho. As you can imagine, this will be an unprecedented geological cataclysm. Thus, Christ's return will be amplified by a devastating spectacle that will make Hollywood disaster movies look like Saturday morning child's fare. The world will see and recognize its rightful Lord and King. Whereas He came the first time in humility and simplicity, this time His glory and majesty will be spectacularly displayed for all to see.

(Chapter 10, "The Return of the King," page 220)

HOW WILL THE EARTH BE JUDGED AT THE END OF THE TRIBULATION?

At the close of the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will come again to judge the earth. He will reconcile His chosen people to Himself, and the reign of the King of Kings will begin. Everlasting righteousness will be brought in during the Millennium. The Temple will be anointed and the beauty of Jewish worship reestablished in the millennial Temple.

Who is the Judge?

Matthew 25:31 tells us clearly that the Son of Man is the Judge presiding over the judgment of nations. John 5:22 tells us that the Father will not judge anyone; He has committed all judgment to His Son, Jesus Christ. Not only that, but the Bible says that He will come with His holy angels to pour out His judgment.

When is the Judgment?

The time of this judgment is well established by pre-millennial students of the Scriptures. It takes place when the Son comes in all His glory, so this judgment will be at the Second Coming. This is not the Rapture when Christians will meet Christ in the air, but the Second Advent when He will come to earth and end the Great Tribulation. This judgment will be put into effect at the end of the Tribulation.

Where is the Judgment?

This judgment will take place on earth, not in heaven. Jesus will have returned to sit on His glorious throne, and “of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,

to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:7). Jesus Christ will reign over the restored earth for a thousand years (the Millennium) in His kingdom, then over a newly created heaven and earth for all eternity.

Who will be Judged?

The judgment will be over all the people alive on the planet when He returns. Though He will have taken the believers into heaven at the Rapture seven years earlier, others will have come to believe in Him during that dreadful time called the Tribulation. At this time, the unsaved will go into everlasting punishment and the saved into the millennial kingdom. The purpose of this judgment is to see who goes into the Kingdom and who goes into the Lake of Fire. All those who have believed in Christ during the Tribulation will reign with Him for a thousand years, and all those who have refused to believe will go immediately to hell.

PROPHETIC TIMELINE

THE RAPTURE



THE TRIBULATION



**JESUS JUDGES THE EARTH
(THE SECOND COMING)**

WHAT WILL THE SECOND COMING BE LIKE?

Matthew writes: “For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other” (Matthew 24:27-31).

The Second Coming will be a glorious event beheld by believers and unbelievers alike. It is a cataclysmic event that will usher in the Millennium, Christ’s 1,000-year reign on earth.

WHEN CHRIST RETURNS AT THE SECOND COMING, WILL WE KNOW HIM?

Because the Rapture takes place before the Second Coming, we Christians will be in heaven with Christ during the Tribulation. At the time of the Second Coming we will know Him because we will be with Him when He returns.

WHO WILL COME WITH CHRIST AT THE SECOND COMING?

When Jesus returns to this earth to put down ungodly rebellion, He will be accompanied by the armies (plural) of heaven. Jude 14-15 and 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 suggest that the armies of heaven will be populated by Old Testament saints, Tribulation saints, and the Church. They are all dressed for combat, but their attire is unusual. All of them are dressed in white, not military fatigues! They don't have to worry about their uniforms getting soiled—they never lift a finger in the battle. Jesus Himself slays the rebels with the sword out of His mouth.

REVELATION MENTIONS THE SUPPER OF GOD AND THE MARRIAGE SUPPER. WHICH WILL I ATTEND?

There are two suppers mentioned in Revelation 19. The first is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb; the second is the Supper of God, in which the flesh of the foes of God is devoured by the scavenging birds. We are given our choice as to which supper we will attend. If we do not wish to eat the food at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, we can become the food at the Supper of God. Christians will all be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb—they will be the Bride of Christ!

WHO WILL BE THE FIRST TO EXPERIENCE HELL?

The first two inhabitants of hell are the Beast and the False Prophet—and they are still suffering the torments of that dreadful place 1,000 years later, when Satan himself joins them in the Lake of Fire. All of them “will be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:10). Their sins are so evident and heinous that they are cast directly into hell without ever appearing at the Great White Throne Judgment described in Revelation 20.

WILL CHRISTIANS BE AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OR THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT?

Christians come before the Judgment Seat of Christ, not before the Great White Throne Judgment. There are about 1,007 years between the two judgments. The believers’ judgment is at the beginning of the Tribulation, immediately following the Rapture. Then there are the seven years of Tribulation, followed by the Millennium on earth, and then the Great White Throne Judgment.

No one can run away from the judgment of God. Revelation 20:13 states, “The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.” These dead, those who have rejected Christ, come before the Great White Throne Judgment. If their name is not found in the Book of Life, they are thrown into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:11-15).

WHEN ARE THE HOPELESS SOULS OF THE UNREDEEMED THROWN INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE?

At the Great White Throne Judgment, every unbeliever who has ever lived will stand before Jesus Christ to receive the sentence of eternal death. There they will all face a Judge but no jury, a Prosecutor but no defender, a sentence but no appeal. It is the final judgment of the world. There is no hope for those who appear before the Great White Throne. There is no possibility of redemption, no possibility of a favorable verdict, and no possibility of appeal. There is only one sentence, and that is to be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

THE BELIEVERS' JUDGMENT (THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST) IS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TRIBULATION.

**THEN THERE ARE SEVEN YEARS
(TRIBULATION)**

AND THE MILLENNIUM

**AND THEN COMES THE
GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT**

IS MY NAME IN THE BOOK OF LIFE?

Everyone who is born has his name in the “Book of Life.” The names of those who, by faith, receive the free gift of eternal life remain in the book.

Those who do not receive God’s free gift are blotted out. “Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous” (Psalm 69:28). “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:15) where the souls of the damned will languish for all eternity. There, separated from the glory of God, they will remain in an unending state of hopeless agony.

This “Book of Life” is mentioned frequently in Scripture (see Exodus 32:32-33; Psalm 69:28; Daniel 12:1; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 21:27; 22:19) and it is imperative to make sure that your name is contained in it because that is your reservation for your eternal home with God!

act 4

THE MILLENNIUM: TO RULE THE WORLD

The word “Millennium” in Latin means “milli” for one thousand and “annum” for years, which translates to “one thousand years.” During that time, Christ will rule on earth in peace and justice from the capital in Jerusalem. The Millennium will be a foretaste of the heavenly state that is to follow.

Excerpt from *The Handwriting on the Wall*:

Christ will come back when He is ready, and He will set up His kingdom without our help. That’s why we need to be praying this great prayer with Isaiah: “O, that you would rend the heavens and come down” (Isaiah 64:1, NIV). We can say with John, “Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20). That’s the only hope for lasting peace.

(Chapter 5, “When Christ Rules the World,” pages 68-69)

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE WORD “MILLENNIUM”?

“Millennium” means “thousand years,” and it derives from Revelation 20:1-6 which describes the rule and reign of Christ on earth. For a thousand years, Christ will rule as king over all the earth from His capital, Jerusalem. The saints of God, who returned with Him for the Battle of Armageddon, rule with Christ during the Millennium. We rule from the New Jerusalem which is located above the earth, and help to oversee a thousand years of peace and righteousness on earth. Satan will be bound during that period so that peace may flourish and the knowledge of the Lord may fill the earth.

HOW WILL ALL THE CHRISTIANS FIT INTO ONE CITY—THE NEW JERUSALEM?

The city is laid out as a cube in dimensions so enormous it defies the imagination. Each side of the city is said to measure a staggering 1,500 miles. That makes a base alone of 2.25 million square miles! The ground floor alone would provide enough living space for far more people than have ever lived in the history of the world.

WILL CHRIST REIGN ON EARTH FOR A LITERAL 1,000 YEARS?

The duration of the Millennium is mentioned six times in Scripture and is never described in such a way as to suggest it should be taken symbolically or allegorically. The text is simple and straightforward: This earthly kingdom will last for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-6).

WHAT WILL THE MILLENNIUM BE LIKE?

There will be no war. Kingdoms will be unified. Even the animal kingdom will be at peace (Micah 4:2-3; Isaiah 11:6-9). It will be a time of unrestrained prosperity. All want will be eliminated (Isaiah 35). Sin will be kept in check, and disobedience will be swiftly dealt with in this time of great purity. Christ's kingdom will be a holy kingdom (Isaiah 11:9; 25:9; 66:23; Zechariah 13:2). During this time Satan will be bound and sealed so that he cannot go out to deceive the nations.

A man who dies at the age of 100 will be thought accursed! There will be perpetual health. It appears that the extraordinary lifespan that characterized the race before the Flood will reappear (Isaiah 65:20). The Millennium will be an exhilarating era of happiness, contentment, and personal joy. It will be the answer to many ancient and anguished prayers (Isaiah 9:3-4; 12:3; 14:7-8; 25:8-9; 30:29; 42:1, 10-12).

Excerpt from *What You Always Wanted to Know About Heaven*:

Because of the rule of a righteous King whose justice will keep life in balance around the world, many of the causes of heartache will be removed. The Millennium will be a time of unprecedented joy as a natural by-product of peace. Isaiah 14:7 says, "The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into singing."

(Lesson 9, "What on Earth Is the Millennium," page 100)

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM?

During the Millennium, children will be born who will populate the earth. Some of these children will rebel against the righteous rule of God. Satan is loosed for a time at the end of the Millennium, and he stirs up a final rebellion on earth among those who haven't believed during the thousand years. The final judgment of the world, the Great White Throne Judgment, concludes the Millennium and ushers in eternity.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POST-MILLENNIALISM, A-MILLENNIALISM, AND PRE-MILLENNIALISM?

These are three competing views concerning the Millennium.

Post-millennialism

was invented by Unitarian minister Daniel Whitby in the mid-seventeenth century. It teaches that the Church itself will bring about the Millennium through the preaching of the Gospel. As more and more people across the globe are converted, the world will gradually be conquered for Christ, and Jesus will at last return to earth to take up the throne won for Him by His Church.

A-millennialism

teaches that there is no literal 1,000-year reign of Christ. Instead, the Church inherits the millennial blessing promised to Israel, and Christ reigns through the Church

right now in an allegorized millennium. This view was developed and promoted by Augustine in the fourth century and remains a common view in most Reformed circles.

Pre-millennialism

is the oldest view of the three and holds that Christ will physically return to earth to put down His enemies and reign over the earth for a literal 1,000-year period. This view is found in the writings of the earliest church Fathers and remains a common view among evangelicals.

WHY SHOULD ONE BELIEVE IN A LITERAL MILLENNIUM (PRE-MILLENNIALISM)?

There are at least four reasons why Christ must come back to earth to reign personally over the kingdoms of the world.

A literal Millennium is needed to reward the people of God. Scores of promises are scattered throughout both testaments guaranteeing that God's people will receive bountiful rewards for faithful service.

A literal Millennium is needed to respond to the disciples' prayer recorded in Luke 11 and Matthew 6. When they prayed, "Your kingdom come," they were requesting that the long-awaited kingdom would be established.

A literal Millennium is needed to reemphasize man's depravity and the necessity of Christ's death on the cross. The Millennium will answer once and for all the age-old question of whether man's sin stems from environment or heritage. The Millennium will feature 1,000 years of unbroken peace and prosperity, in which Christ will rule from Jerusalem with an iron rod. Yet at the end of that age of bliss, Satan will be loosed for a short time to demonstrate that the heart of man is indeed black with sin and that even in a perfect environment, unredeemed men will turn against God and rebel. The Millennium is proof positive that Christ's death is essential for mankind's salvation.

**THE MILLENNIUM IS PROOF POSITIVE
THAT CHRIST'S DEATH IS ESSENTIAL
FOR MANKIND'S SALVATION.**

act 5

THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH:

TO CREATE GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM

God has established an eternal home for His children where there will be no sickness or dying. Former sorrows will not be remembered as His children spend eternity in His presence, rejoicing in the New Jerusalem.

Excerpt from *Escape the Coming Night*:

Can you imagine a holy city? It will be a community where no one lied, no shady business deals were ever discussed, no unclean movies or pictures were seen. The New Jerusalem will be holy because everyone in it will be holy. Whatever discouraging or dark thoughts enter our minds today will be erased.

(Chapter 19, "Paradise Regained," page 244)

WHAT WILL WE DO IN HEAVEN?

We will never grow bored! We will sing (Revelation 15:3-5). Those who could never carry a tune on earth will be able to sing in heaven and never grow weary of exalting the name of the King of Kings. We'll serve perfectly, enabled by the power that is able to conform all things to the pleasure of His sovereign will (Revelation 1:1; 7:3; 10:7; 11:18; 15:3; 19:5; 22:6). We'll share unbroken fellowship (Revelation 19:9; Hebrews 12:18, 22-24) with angels, members of the Church, God, Jesus, and the spirits of just men made perfect. Never again will we have to say goodbye to a loved one or give a farewell party. Through our resurrected bodies, we will have instant access to each other at all times.

God has different assignments for different people to do. God made each of us unique with a special ministry and a responsibility. Each of us in our own right has a purpose and design for what God has called us to do. There are many distinct groups in heaven, all unique in their responsibility before God. For instance, the 24 elders are crowned, enthroned, and seated (see Revelation 4:10; 11:16). The 144,000 from the Tribulation have no crowns or thrones and are standing up and singing a song that no one else knows. The song of the 144,000 sounds like great rushing waters and loud peals of thunder. It is joy-filled.

When we get to heaven, we are going to praise God in every conceivable way. All of heaven is filled with music. Worship music gives us a taste of heaven. There are more hymns in the book of Revelation than in any other book

of the Bible, except for the book of Psalms. Music needs to be a high priority with us if we want to know how to worship the Lord.

IS THERE SUCH A THING AS “SOUL SLEEP”?

Revelation 6:9-11 strikes a deathblow to the idea of “soul sleep.” The souls under the altar who were martyred during the Tribulation are conscious and speaking: “And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord . . .’” We should not be led astray by the use of the word “sleep” in connection with the death of the body. This is not “soul sleep.” We can understand more clearly when we read 1 Thessalonians 4:14-16. Here we are told about the resurrection of the believers: (1) They rise from the grave, and (2) God will bring them with Christ when He returns. There is only one way to explain how they can both rise and be brought from heaven. The soul and the body are separated in death. “Sleep” is applied only to the believer’s body, which goes into the grave and awaits resurrection. “Sleep” is NEVER applied to the soul of the believer.

CAN ANYTHING KEEP THE UNSAVED DEAD FROM HELL?

No. That is why our primary goal is to reach as many people as possible before it is too late. There is no second chance, nor is there annihilation after death. At death the unsaved descend immediately into Hades where they are kept under punishment until their bodily resurrection—resulting in damnation at the Great White Throne Judgment (Daniel 12:2; Luke 16:22-23; 23:43; Philippians 3:10-11, 21; Revelation 20:11-15).

AS A CHRISTIAN, WHY SHOULD I NOT FEAR DEATH?

The Bible has a unique view of death for those who have placed their trust in Jesus Christ. It describes death for the believer as *precious*. “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints” (Psalm 116:15). The Bible also describes death for the believer as being “without sting.” “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:55), and as “being with Christ.” “For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better” (Philippians 1:23). In heaven you will see Jesus face-to-face— “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away” (Revelation 21:4, KJV). This is the wonderful hope with which we live and which keeps us free from the fear of death!

HOW CAN I APPLY THE TRUTHS OF PROPHECY TO MY LIFE?

Such a careful writer as John is not likely to leave us wondering how we ought to apply the message of Revelation. He makes his purposes for writing the book crystal clear. You can be blessed just by reading the book (Revelation 1:3; 22:7) or cursed for tampering with it, according to Revelation 22:18-19. The road to true success, Revelation tells us, is found in submitting our lives to God’s Word. Revelation teaches us that although someday the need for evangelism will disappear, the need and privilege of worship is eternal. Practice “down here” before we worship Him perfectly “up there”!

We are under the same instruction that John received to take the words of the Gospel to men, women, and children who do not yet know and love the Savior. “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10).

We must make ourselves ready and watch for His coming because we have received ample warning that He is coming and there will be no time to prepare: “Surely I am coming quickly” (Revelation 22:20).

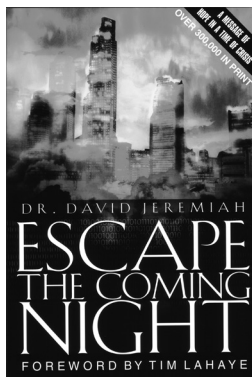
For additional information from Dr. Jeremiah on this subject, please order “What to Do Until Then” from Volume 4 of the *Escape the Coming Night* series.

Excerpt from *Escape the Coming Night*:

Now we reach the end of our journey and will be given a preview of eternity future; a new heaven and a new earth will be created. Although it is difficult to imagine anything more wonderful than the heaven we inhabit upon our deaths, the eternal heaven will be even more glorious. The crowning jewel in paradise will be the holy city, the New Jerusalem.

(Chapter 19, “Paradise Regained,” page 244)

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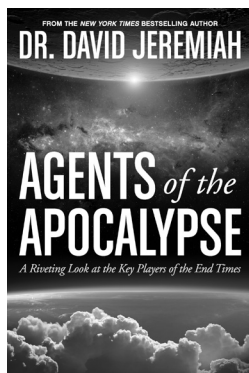
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