

Biblical Future Events

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1 The Church Age

1.1 The Condition of Israel during the Church Age

1.1.1 Israel is Distinct from the Church

“That the **Gentiles**, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but **Israel**, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it.” Romans 9:30-31

“What **Israel** sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but **the elect** did.” Romans 11:7

“Again I ask: Did they (Israel) stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, **salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.**” Romans 11:11

“Give no offense either to **Jews** or to Greeks or to **the church of God.**” 1 Corinthians 10:32 NASB

1.1.2 Israel is still God’s Chosen People

“The LORD your God has **chosen you** (Israel) out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, **keeping his covenant** of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.” Deuteronomy 7:6-9

“The people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, **the covenants**, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and **the promises.**” Romans 9:4

“I ask then: **Did God reject his people?** By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. **God did not reject his people**, whom he foreknew.” Romans 11:1-2

“Again I ask: **Did they (Israel) stumble so as to fall beyond recovery?** Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.” Romans 11:11

“As far as the gospel is concerned, they (Israel) are enemies on your account; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, for God’s gifts and his call are **irrevocable.**” Romans 11:28-29

1.1.3 Israel has NOT been Superseded by the Church

“The people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and **the promises.**” Romans 9:4

“That the **Gentiles**, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but **Israel**, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it.” Romans 9:30-31

“I ask then: **Did God reject his people?** By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. **God did not reject his people**, whom he foreknew.” Romans 11:1-2

“What **Israel** sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but **the elect** did.” Romans 11:7

“Again I ask: **Did they (Israel) stumble so as to fall beyond recovery?** Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.” Romans 11:11

“Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether **Jews, Greeks or the church of God.**” 1 Corinthians 10:32

However, the following scriptures may cast some question on whether Israel has or has not been replaced by the church:

Romans 2:28-29 indicates that a man is a Jew not by birth or circumcision, but instead is a Jew by the Spirit working inwardly in his heart. But this is really a contrast on an individual basis between a natural Jew and a believing Jew, not a general contrast indicating that Israel has been replaced by the Church.

Romans 9:6-8 indicates that not all who are descended from Israel are (true) Israel, but rather believing Israelites are the children of promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. Again this is an individual spiritual distinction, not a general indication that Israel has been replaced by the Church.

Galatians 3:6-7 indicates that those who believe are (true) children of Abraham. This is a spiritual application on an individual basis, and does not indicate that Israel has been replaced by the Church.

1.1.4 God Has Yet Unfulfilled Promises to Israel

God's promises to Israel are sure; some are already fulfilled and some (see below) are not yet fulfilled.

"I am with you (Israel) and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. **I will not leave you until I have done what I promised you.**" Genesis 28:15

"In those days, at that time,' declares the LORD, 'the people of Israel and the people of Judah together will go in tears to **seek the LORD** their God. They will ask the way to Zion and turn their faces toward it. They will come and bind themselves to the LORD in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten.'" Jeremiah 50:4-5

"For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol. Afterwards **the Israelites will return and seek the LORD** their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days." Hosea 3:4-5

1.1.4.1 Yet Unfulfilled Promises of the Abrahamic Covenant

"Whoever curses you **I will curse.**" Genesis 12:3

"All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring **forever.**" Genesis 13:15

"The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an **everlasting possession** to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God." Genesis 17:8

"Then God said, 'Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an **everlasting covenant** for his descendants after him.'" Genesis 17:19

"Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all **this land I promised them**, and it will be their inheritance forever.'" Exodus 32:13

"The covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant: **'To you I will give the land of Canaan** as the portion you will inherit.'" 1 Chronicles 16:16-18 & Psalm 105:9-11

See 5.3 below for a more complete description of the Abrahamic Covenant.

1.1.4.2 Yet Unfulfilled Promises of the Palestinian Covenant

"Then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and **gather you again from all the nations** where he scattered you. Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the LORD your God will gather you and bring you back. He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and **you will take possession of it.** The LORD your **God will circumcise your hearts** and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul and live." Deuteronomy 30:3-6

"In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the remnant that is left of his people. He will gather the exiles of Israel; he will **assemble the scattered people of Judah** from the four quarters of the earth." Isaiah 11:11-12

- “I myself will **gather the remnant** of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number.” Jeremiah 23:3
- “I will bring you from the nations and **gather you** from the countries where you have been scattered.” Ezekiel 20:34
- “These bones are the whole house of Israel, They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: O my people, **I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.** I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land.’” Ezekiel 37:11-12,14
- “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. **I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land.** I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and **I will cleanse them.** They will be my people and I will be their God.” Ezekiel 37:21-23
- “See, I am going to **rouse them** (Israelites) out of the places to which you (Gentiles) sold them, and I will return on your own heads what you have done.” Joel 3:7
- “I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant Israel in their own land, **never again to be uprooted from the land** I have given them,’ says the LORD your God.” Amos 9:14-15
- See 5.4 below for a more complete description of the Palestinian Covenant.

1.1.4.3 Yet Unfulfilled Promises of the Davidic Covenant

- “Your (David’s) house and **your kingdom will endure forever** before me; your throne will be established forever.” 2 Samuel 7:16
- “Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor. He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon through all generations. In his days the righteous will flourish; prosperity will abound till the moon is no more. **He will rule from sea to sea** and from the River to the ends of the earth. All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him. All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.” Psalm 72:1-2,4-5,7-8,11,17
- “I have sworn to David my servant, I will establish your line forever and make **your throne firm** through all generations.” Psalm 89:3-4
- “Once for all, I have sworn by my holiness – and I will not lie to David – that his line will continue forever and **his throne** endure before me like the sun; it **will be established forever** like the moon, the faithful witness in the sky.” Psalm 89:35-37
- “A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. With righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. In that day **the Root of Jesse** will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.” Isaiah 11:1-2,4,10
- “‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when **I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King** who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.’” Jeremiah 23:5-6. Similar to Jeremiah 33:15-16
- “The God of heaven will set up **a kingdom that will never be destroyed**, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.” Daniel 2:44

“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him **the throne of his father David**, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.” Luke 1:32-33

“Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants (Jesus Christ) **on his throne.**” Acts 2:29-30

“After this I will return and **rebuild David’s fallen tent.** Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it.” Acts 15:16. Similar to Amos 9:11.

“Then the end will come, when **he hands over the kingdom to God the Father** after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.” 1 Corinthians 15:24

See 5.5 below for a more complete description of the Davidic Covenant.

1.1.4.4 Yet Unfulfilled Promises of the New Covenant

“‘The time is coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,’ declares the LORD. ‘This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,’ declares the LORD. **‘I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.** I will be their God and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, “Know the LORD,” because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,’ declares the LORD. ‘For I will forgive their wickedness and **will remember their sins no more.**’” Jeremiah 31:31-34

“For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but **according to the Spirit.**” Romans 8:3-4

“‘This cup is the **new covenant** in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” 1 Corinthians 11:25-26

“He has made us competent as ministers of a **new covenant** – not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious?” 2 Corinthians 3:6-8

“‘The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a **new covenant** with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.’ By calling this covenant ‘new,’ he has **made the first one obsolete**; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.” Hebrews 8:8,13

See 5.6 below for a more complete description of the New Covenant.

1.1.5 Israel Temporarily Set Aside

“As for you, O house of Israel, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Go and serve your idols, every one of you! **But afterwards** you will surely listen to me and no longer profane my holy name with your gifts and idols. For on my holy mountain, the high mountain of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD, there in the land the entire house of Israel will serve me, and there I will accept them. There you will remember your conduct and all the actions by which you have defiled yourselves, and you will loathe yourselves for all the evil you have done. You will know that I am the LORD, when I deal with you for my name’s sake and not according to your evil ways and your corrupt practices, O house of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD.” Ezekiel 20:39-40,43-44

“I heard someone speaking to me from inside the temple. He said: ‘Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet. This is where I will live among the Israelites forever. The house of **Israel will never again defile** my holy name.’” Ezekiel 43:6-7

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. **They will look on me, the one they have pierced,** and they will mourn for him

as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”
Zechariah 12:10

“As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, ‘If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace – but **now it is hidden from your eyes.**’” Luke 19:41-42

“What Israel sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but the elect did. The others were hardened, as it is written: ‘God gave them **a spirit of stupor**, eyes so that they could not see and ears so that they could not hear, to this very day.’” Romans 11:7-8

“Again I ask: **Did they stumble** so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.” Romans 11:11

“For if their (Israel’s) rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but **life from the dead?**” Romans 11:15

“And if they (Israel) do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to **graft them in again.**” Romans 11:23

“Israel has experienced a **hardening in part** until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.’” Romans 11:25-27

“But **their (Israel’s) minds were made dull**, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, **a veil covers their hearts.**” 2 Corinthians 3:14-15

In summary, Jewish people are temporarily set aside during the Church Age. That is, because of unbelief in Christ, **the Jewish people are largely unsaved during the Church Age**. However, they are still God’s Chosen People (see 1.1.2 above). And, individual Jews can become part of the Church through faith in Christ (see 1.1.6 below). Then, after the Rapture of Church Age believers to Heaven (see Section 2 below), **God will bring about a big change for the Jewish people**. They will lose their spirit of stupor (Romans 11:8), lose their hardness of heart (Romans 11:25) and lose their dull minds and veiled hearts (2 Corinthians 3:14-15). This will occur during the Tribulation. See Section 3 below, and especially 3.1, 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6. Multitudes of Jews (but not every Jew) **will come to faith in Christ during the Tribulation**. This will be a time of severe testing and persecution, and some will be martyred for their faith in Christ. Then, after the Second Coming of Christ to earth, believing Jews will play a central part in the Millennium. See Section 5 below.

1.1.6 Individual Jews Can Become Part of The Church

“Therefore **let all Israel be assured of this**: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:36,38

“Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. **Many of the Jews believed**, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.” Acts 17:11-12

“**Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord**; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.” Acts 18:8

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for **the salvation of everyone who believes**: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.” Romans 1:16

“This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ **to all who believe.**” Romans 3:22

“There is only one **God, who will justify the circumcised by faith** and the uncircumcised through that same faith.” Romans 3:30

“Even us, **whom he also called, not only from the Jews** but also from the Gentiles.” Romans 9:24

“For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, **‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’**”

Romans 10:12-13

“Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I make much of my ministry in **the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people (Israel) to envy and save some of them.**” Romans 11:13-14

“And if they (Israel) do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to **graft them in again.**” Romans 11:23

“Even to this day when Moses is read (by Jews), a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, **the veil is taken away.**” 2 Corinthians 3:15-16

“We who are **Jews by birth** and not ‘Gentile sinners’ know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 2:15

“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **There is neither Jew nor Greek,** slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:26,28

“For he himself is our peace, **who has made the two (Jews and Gentiles) one** and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and **in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross,** by which he put to death their hostility.” Ephesians 2:14-16

“This mystery is that **through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body,** and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 3:6

“**Here (in Christ) there is no Greek or Jew,** circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.” Colossians 3:11

1.2 The Church a Mystery Revealed in New Testament

“Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, **according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed** and made known so that all nations might believe.” Romans 16:25-26

“We speak of **God’s secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden** and that God destined for our glory before time began. **But God has revealed it to us** by his Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 2:7,10

“The mystery made known to me by revelation **The mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations** as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. **This mystery is that through the gospel** the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. **this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden** in God, who created all things. **His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known.**” Ephesians 3:3-6,9-10

“For the sake of **his body, which is the church.** I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness - **the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed** to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of **this mystery, which is Christ in you,** the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:24-27

1.3 The Rapture is Imminent

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and **take you to be with me** that you also may be where I am.” John 14:3

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we **eagerly await** a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who **will transform our lowly bodies** so that they will be like his glorious body.” Philippians 3:20-21

“To **wait for his Son from heaven,** whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who **rescues us (by the Rapture) from the coming wrath (the Tribulation).**” 1 Thessalonians 1:10

“For you know very well that the day of the Lord (which begins at the Rapture per 3.8 below) will **come like a thief in the night.**” 1 Thessalonians 5:2

“For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath (in the Tribulation) but to **receive salvation (at the Rapture)** through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 5:9

“The appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about **in his own time.**” 1 Timothy 6:14-15

“**We wait** for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” Titus 2:13

“The Lord’s coming is **near.**” James 5:8

“They will say, ‘Where is this “coming” he promised?’” 2 Peter 3:4

1.4 The Church Age Closes in Apostasy

“The Spirit clearly says that **in later times some will abandon the faith** and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.” 1 Timothy 4:1

“But mark this: There will be **terrible times in the last days**. People having a form of godliness but **denying** its power. These men oppose the truth – men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, **are rejected**.” 2 Timothy 3:1-2,5,8

“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. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.” 2 Timothy 4:3-4

“There will be **false teachers among you**. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them – bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up.” 2 Peter 2:1-3

“These men blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like brute beasts, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like beasts they too will perish. They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done. Their idea of pleasure is to carouse in broad daylight. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their pleasures **while they feast with you**. With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed – an accursed brood! They have left the straight way and wandered off to follow the way of Balaam son of Boer, who loved the wages of wickedness.” 2 Peter 2:12-15

“**In the last times there will be scoffers** who will follow their own ungodly desires.’ These are men who **divide you**, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit” Jude 18-19

2 The Rapture (Bodily Resurrection of Church Age Believers)

2.1 Church Age Believers Who Die Before the Rapture

Church age believers who have already died, have bodies that are **in the grave, but their souls are at home with the Lord** in heaven.

“For the trumpet will sound (at the Rapture per 1 Thessalonians 4:16), **the dead (bodies of believers who have died) will be raised imperishable**.” 1 Corinthians 15:52

“Now we know that **if the earthly tent we live in (our body) is destroyed (in death)**, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. We are confident, I say, and **would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord**. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.” 2 Corinthians 5:1-4,8-9

“We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring **with Jesus** those (souls of deceased believers who are in heaven) who have fallen asleep (died) in him. The **dead in Christ** (the bodies of dead believers) **will rise first**. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” 1 Thessalonians 4:14,16-17

Note that the Rapture is only for church age believers. Old Testament saints are later resurrected on earth after the Second Coming of Christ as discussed in 4.11 below.

2.2 Christ Takes Church Age Believers To Heaven (The Rapture)

The Rapture involves two groups of church age believers; those believers who have already died and those believers who are still alive at the time of the Rapture.

The souls of church age **believers who have already died**, are, at their deaths, with the Lord in heaven. See 2 Corinthians 5:8 and 2.1 above. Then, at the Rapture, the Lord comes down from heaven with them (see 1 Thessalonians 4:14) into the clouds, where their bodies will be raised from the grave, and reunited as resurrected bodies with their souls and with the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Immediately thereafter, church age **believers who are still living at the Rapture** will be caught up with changed (resurrected) bodies to also meet the Lord in the clouds of the air. Both groups will then be with the Lord forever (1 Thessalonians 4:17). The Rapture apparently occurs immediately before the Tribulation (Daniel's Seventieth Week), thus saving church age believers from the wrath to come during that seven year period. See 2.3 below and Section 3.

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and **take you to be with me** that you also may be where I am." John 14:3

"We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, **the redemption of our bodies.**" Romans 8:23

"But Christ has indeed been **raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep** (died). But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; **then when he comes, those who belong to him.**" 1 Corinthians 15:20,23

"We will not all sleep (die), but we will all be **changed** – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, **the dead (believers bodies) will be raised imperishable, and we (living believers) will be changed.** For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality." 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

"We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead **will also raise us with Jesus** and present us with you in his presence." 2 Corinthians 4:14

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will **transform our lowly bodies** so that they will be like his glorious body." Philippians 3:20-21

"When Christ, who is your life, appears, then **you also will appear with him in glory.**" Colossians 3:4

"**To wait for his Son from heaven**, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, **who rescues us from the coming wrath** (i.e. the Tribulation). 1 Thessalonians 1:10

"For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory **in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes?**" 1 Thessalonians 2:19

"So that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father **when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones** (church age believers)." 1 Thessalonians 3:13

"We believe that **God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep (died) in him.** According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those (church age believers) who have fallen asleep (died). For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the **dead in Christ (bodies of Church age believers who have already died) will rise** first. After that, we who are still alive (Church age believers who are still living) and are left will be **caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** And so we will be with the Lord forever." 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17

"**The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.**" 1 Thessalonians 5:2. Note that the Day of the Lord is a period of time that begins with Daniel's Seventieth Week, and that it apparently immediately follows the Rapture. See 3.8 below.

"For **God did not appoint us to suffer wrath** (i.e., in the Tribulation) but to receive salvation (at the Rapture) through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake (living) or asleep (have died), **we may live together with him.**" 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

"May **your whole spirit, soul and body** be kept blameless at **the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**" 1 Thessalonians 5:23

"Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and **our being gathered to him....**" 2 Thessalonians 2:1

"**For it (the Day of the Lord) will not come unless** the apostasy (or probably instead **the Rapture**) **comes first, and the Man of Lawlessness is revealed.**" 2 Thessalonians 2:3 NASB. Note that the Greek word translated apostasy (or rebellion in the NIV) means **departure**, and by context with 2 Thessalonians 2:1 probably refers to the Rapture ("our being gathered to him") which is a **departure from the earth** rather than a departure from the faith. Note also that the Latin Vulgate and all seven English Bible translations prior to the 1611 King James Version translated the Greek word as "departure".

See 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 which also indicates that **the Rapture comes first (v 7) and then the Lawless One will be revealed (v 8).**

“For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back (the Holy Spirit indwelling believers) will continue to do so **till he (the Holy Spirit) is taken out of the way** (at the Rapture when believers are removed from the earth).” 2 Thessalonians 2:7

Note that **both 1st and 2nd Thessalonians speak repeatedly (12 times) about the Rapture** (see 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:19; 1 Thessalonians 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:2,9,23; 2 Thessalonians 2:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:7; 2 Thessalonians 2:13 and 2 Thessalonians 2:14). This gives further **indication that 2 Thessalonians 2:3 is also speaking about the Rapture**, not the apostasy.

“Keep this command without spot or blame until **the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ.**” 1 Timothy 6:14

“We wait for **the blessed hope – the glorious appearing** of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” Titus 2:13

“**He (Christ) will appear** a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation (at the Rapture) to those who are waiting for him.” Hebrews 9:28

“Be patient, then, brothers, until **the Lord’s coming.** The Lord’s coming is near.” James 5:7-8

“**When Jesus Christ is revealed.** The grace to be given you **when Jesus Christ is revealed.**” 1 Peter 1:7,13

“Continue in him, so that **when he (Christ) appears** we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.” 1 John 2:28

“**When he appears,** we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” 1 John 3:2

“Keep yourselves in God’s love **as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.**” Jude 21

“Only hold on to what you (Church age believers at Thyatira) have **until I (Jesus Christ) come.**” Revelation 2:25

“**I will also keep you** (Church age believers at Philadelphia) **from the hour of trial (i.e., the Tribulation) that is going to come** upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.” Revelation 3:10

Note that there are **two groups of believers who have died physically** before the Rapture. These are **Old Testament believers** (such as Abraham) and **Church Age believers** (such as Martin Luther). Both groups of believers have their bodies in the “grave” and their souls in heaven with Jesus. For example, see Luke 23:43. Then at the Rapture all Church Age believers receive resurrected bodies and dwell with Jesus in heaven, as discussed above. During the subsequent seven year Tribulation **the occupants of heaven include both the souls of Old Testament believers and resurrected Church Age believers.** Both groups accompany Christ at his Second Coming to earth as discussed in 4.7 below. The Old Testament believers then receive resurrection bodies as discussed in 4.11 below.

2.3 The Rapture Occurs Before Daniel’s Seventieth Week

This is commonly referred to as the **Pre-Tribulation Rapture** of all church age believers, who are taken by Jesus Christ to heaven. That is, **church age believers will be taken to heaven before the time of God’s wrath (called Daniel’s Seventieth Week or the Tribulation)** comes upon the earth. The Tribulation (see Section 3 below) is a time of trouble and a time of God’s wrath.

“Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be **saved from God’s wrath (i.e. the Tribulation)** through him!” Romans 5:9

“To wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who **rescues us from the coming wrath (i.e. the Tribulation).**” 1 Thessalonians 1:10

“For God did not appoint us to **suffer wrath** (in the Tribulation) but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 5:9

“That day (the Day of the Lord per 2 Thessalonians 2:2) will not come until **the rebellion (or probably instead the Rapture) occurs** and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshipped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple proclaiming himself to be God (in the Tribulation per Daniel 9:27).” 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. Note that the Greek word translated ‘rebellion’ in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 can mean either departure or rapture (departure from the earth), and was translated ‘departure’ in the seven earliest English New Testament translations. **And Rapture is consistent with the subject given two verses earlier in verse 1: “Our being gathered to him**

(Christ).” Also, see **2 Thessalonians 2:6-8** which indicates that the Rapture comes first (verse 7) and then the lawless one will be revealed (verse 8).

“For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so **till he (the Holy Spirit indwelling believers) is taken out of the way (at the Rapture).**” 2 Thessalonians 2:7

“I will also **keep you (Church age believers) from the hour of trial (i.e. the Tribulation)** that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.” Revelation 3:10

“Fall on us and **hide us** from the face of him who sits on the throne and **from the wrath of the Lamb!** For **the great day of their wrath (i.e. the Tribulation) has come,** and who can stand?” Revelation 6:16-17

2.4 The Bema Seat Judgment At The Rapture

This is the **Bema seat judgment of believer’s works** at the time of (immediately following) the Rapture. The believer’s sins are not judged because they have already been forgiven, atoned for, taken away and remembered no more (Isaiah 6:7; Isaiah 43:25; Isaiah 53:5-6,10-11; Jeremiah 31:34; Matthew 9:2; Romans 3:24-26; Hebrews 8:12; Hebrews 10:17; 1 John 1:7 & 1 John 2:2). But every work of church age believers must come into judgment. This occurs in heaven at the Bema Judgment Seat of Christ, immediately following the Rapture. The result is **crown(s) and reward, or loss of reward.**

The Greek word **Bema** means a **judgment seat where rewards are given.** L. Sale-Harrison wrote: “In Grecian games in Athens, the old arena contained a raised platform on which the president or umpire of the arena sat. From here he rewarded all the contestants; and **here he rewarded all winners. It was called the ‘bema’ or ‘reward seat.’**”

“Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has **entrusted all judgment to the Son.**” John 5:22

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and **will not be condemned;** he has crossed over from death to life.” John 5:24

“Therefore, there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1

“For we will all stand before God’s **judgment seat.**” Romans 14:10

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any man (a believer) builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the **fire will test the quality of each man’s work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved,** but only as one escaping through the flames.” 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

“**Wait till the Lord comes.** He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. **At that time each will receive his praise from God.**” 1 Corinthians 4:5

“We do it to get a **crown** that will last forever.” 1 Corinthians 9:25

“For we (Church age believers) must all appear before the **judgment seat (Bema) of Christ,** that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” 2 Corinthians 5:10

“Because you know that the Lord will **reward** everyone for whatever good he does.” Ephesians 6:8

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that **you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward.**” Colossians 3:23-24

“For what is our hope, our joy, or the **crown** in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus **when he comes?**” 1 Thessalonians 2:19

“Now there is in store for me the **crown of righteousness,** which the Lord, the righteous Judge, **will award to me on that day** – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:8

“Their sins and lawless acts I will **remember no more.**” Hebrews 10:17

“When he has **stood the test,** he will receive the **crown of life.**” James 1:12

“And **when the Chief Shepherd appears,** you will receive the **crown of glory** that will never fade away.” 1 Peter 5:4

“Behold, I am coming soon! **My reward is with me,** and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.” Revelation 22:12

2.5 The Marriage of Church Age Believers to the Lamb

“In my Father’s house are many rooms; I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and **take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.**” John 14:2-3

“I promised **you (believers in Corinth)** to one **husband, to Christ**, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.” 2 Corinthians 11:2

“Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and **to present her to himself** as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church – for we are **members of his body**. ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about **Christ and the church.**” Ephesians 5:25-27,29-32

“After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting ‘Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the **wedding of the Lamb** has come, and **his bride** has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given to her to wear.’ (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of **the saints**.) Then the angel said to me, ‘Write: “Blessed are those who are invited to the **wedding supper of the Lamb!**”’” Revelation 19:1,7-9

These verses indicate that **the Lamb is Jesus Christ** (Revelation 19:7,9), and that **the bride of the Lamb is the Church** (Revelation 19:7-8) . That is, Revelation 19:7-9 is referring to the marriage of Jesus Christ to the Church and to the subsequent marriage supper.

Marriage in Bible times had **three phases**:

First is the betrothal or **engagement covenant** (see Matthew 1:18-19). This can be likened to the betrothal of Christ to Church Age Believers (2 Corinthians 11:2) when they are individually **born again** by faith in Christ.

Second is the **marriage when the groom takes his bride from her house to his father’s house** (Genesis 24:58,64-67; Ruth 4:11; Psalm 45:10,14-15; Matthew 25:1-10; John 3:29 and John 14:2-3). This can be likened to **the Rapture when Jesus Christ takes Church Age Believers from earth to His Father’s house in heaven.**

Third is the **marriage supper, or seven day marriage feast** (Genesis 29:21-23,27; Judges 14:10-12 and Matthew 22:2) usually given by the father of the groom, and to which guests have been invited. This can be likened to the **marriage supper of the Lamb in heaven** (Revelation 19:9) to which guests have been invited. This is probably a seven day (week long) marriage supper that starts very shortly after the marriage (the Rapture), and probably after the Bema Seat Judgment (see 2.4 above). The week long marriage supper may actually be seven years long, in heaven, during the Seventieth Week of Daniel. And the guests at the marriage supper in heaven will presumably be the souls of all Old Testament saints already assembled in heaven.

The marriage starts after the legally binding betrothal when individual church age believers are saved, and continues when Christ, the promised bridegroom, comes in the clouds of the air at the Rapture to claim his betrothed bride and takes her to heaven. **The actual marriage of the Lamb to the Church takes place in heaven** as seems to be indicated in Revelation 19:1,5-9. It occurs after the Rapture (and probably after the Bema Seat Judgment), but before the second coming of Christ to earth (Revelation 19:11-21).

3 The Seventieth Week of Daniel (Commonly called the Tribulation)

3.1 Daniel’s Prophecy of Seventy Weeks in Daniel 9:24-27

The **seventy weeks of years** (actually the 70 ‘sevens’ in Daniel 9:24) are 490 years that are decreed by God for Israel and Jerusalem. This is split into **an initial 483 years** (7 ‘sevens’ plus 62 ‘sevens’ per Daniel 9:25), **plus the final 7 years** (1 ‘seven’ per Daniel 9:27). After the first 483 years were completed, Jesus, the Anointed One, was cut off (dies on the cross) per Daniel 9:26.

There is a **long time gap** between the end of the sixty-ninth week and the beginning of the seventieth week (the Rapture). **This long time gap is known as the CHURCH AGE.**

The important final 7 years is often called **Daniel’s Seventieth Week**. The seventieth week presumably starts right after, or very soon after, the Rapture which ends the Church Age (see Section 2 above).

Daniel’s Seventieth Week starts soon after the Rapture with a **seven-year peace treaty between Israel and a ruler** per Daniel 9:27. But the ruler (called the Beast per Daniel 7:23-25 and Revelation 13:1-

8,14-15) **breaks the treaty in the middle of this seven year period** per Daniel 9:27 by stopping temple sacrifices and by setting up an idol in the temple. In Matthew 24:15 NASB this idol is called “**the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION** which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet.” Although the seven year peace treaty is probably a treaty with Israel, it is also probable that it affects the entire world per Revelation 3:10.

The final 3 ½ years, after the treaty is broken, is described as follows: “**then there will be a great tribulation**, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.” Matthew 24:21 NASB

“Seventy ‘sevens’ (490 years) are **decreed for your people (Israel) and your holy city (Jerusalem)** to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy (by the end of the Seventy Weeks at the Second Coming of Christ). Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (issued by King Artaxerxes in Nehemiah 2:1-8) until the Anointed One (Jesus Christ), the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens’, and sixty-two ‘sevens’ (483 years total). It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two ‘sevens’, **the Anointed One (Jesus) will be cut off (die on the cross)** and will have nothing. The people (Romans) of the ruler (the Beast) who will come, will destroy the city and the sanctuary (in 70 AD). The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. He (the ruler who will come, **the Beast**) **will confirm a covenant** (peace treaty) with many (including Israel) for one ‘seven’ (seven years). In the middle of the ‘seven’ **he will put an end to sacrifice and offering**. And on a wing of the temple he (**the Beast**) **will set up an abomination that causes desolation** (see Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4 & Revelation 13:14-15), **until the end** that is decreed is poured out on him (the Beast’s end is the lake of fire per Revelation 19:19-20).” Daniel 9:24-27

3.2 Other Terms for Daniel’s Seventieth Week (or its Last Half)

Other Biblical terms, as discussed below, are also used for the seven years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week, or more typically for the last half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week:

The Tribulation (or Distress) – This is the most commonly used term for Daniel’s Seventieth Week. God decrees this tribulation apparently for the judgment and purification of His chosen people Israel, as well as for the gentiles. **It applies to Daniel Seventieth Week, or possibly to the last 3 ½ years thereof**, but it is customary to use the word Tribulation to refer to the entire 7 year period. The scripture references are Deuteronomy 4:30; Matthew 24:21-22,29-30; Mark 13:19-20,24-26 & Revelation 7:14.

The Great Tribulation – This is a more specific and emphatic reference to **the last 3 ½ years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week**. Again God decrees it apparently for the judgment and purification of his chosen people Israel, as well as for the gentiles. The scripture references are Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21 NASB; Mark 13:19 NASB; Luke 21:23 & Revelation 7:14.

The Time of Jacob’s Trouble – Another term for Daniel’s Seventieth Week, but **it probably refers to the last 3 ½ years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week**. It is found in Jeremiah 30:7 NIV or KJV.

The Time of Distress Such as has Not Happened from the Beginning of Nations – Another term for **the last 3 ½ years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week**, that emphasizes the severity of the distress. It is found in Daniel 12:1, but see also Matthew 24:21 & Mark 13:19.

The Wrath of God – Although there are multitudes of scriptural references to wrath, only some of them refer specifically, by context, to God’s Wrath poured out in the last days on Israel and on the gentiles. Often it is spoken of as God’s Day of Wrath. As such it probably refers to **the last 3 ½ years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week**. The references to **God’s Day of Wrath** are: Psalm 110:5-6; Isaiah 13:13; Ezekiel 7:19; Ezekiel 22:18-22; Zephaniah 1:14-15,18; Romans 1:18; Romans 2:5,8-9; Romans 5:9; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:6; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 3:10; Revelation 6:16-17; Revelation 11:18; Revelation 14:9-10,19; Revelation 15:1,7; Revelation 16:1,19 & Revelation 19:15.

A Time, Times and Half a Time – This phrase is a reference to **the last 3 ½ years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week**. The scripture references are Daniel 7:25; Daniel 12:7 and Revelation 12:14.

Forty-Two Months - This phrase is also a reference to **the last 3 ½ years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week**. The scripture references are Revelation 11:2 and Revelation 13:5.

- 1,260 Days** – This is a reference to **the last 3 ½ years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week**. Note that this is equal to 42 months of 30 days each, which is considered the length of a lunar month in scripture. The scripture references are Revelation 11:3 and Revelation 12:6.
- 1,290 Days** - This is still another reference to **the last 3 ½ years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week**. The scripture reference is Daniel 12:11. It is not known what occurs in the 30 additional days that are beyond the 1,260 days; however, **the 30 days may be the time** after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ **for the Judgment of Living Israel (see 4.9 below) and the Sheep and Goats Judgment of Living Gentiles (see 4.10 below)**.
- 1,335 Days** - This is yet another reference to **the last 3 ½ years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week**, but it is not known what occurs in the 75 additional days that are beyond the 1,260 days (forty-two months). **Perhaps it also includes the Second Coming of Christ, and the judgments and other events that immediately follow the Second Coming (see Section 4 below)**, up and until the beginning of the Millennium. The scripture reference is Daniel 12:12.

3.3 Timeframe of Daniel’s Seventieth Week

The seven years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week presumably starts **right after, or soon after, the Rapture** of church age believers (see 2.2 above). Per the scriptures given in 2.3 above, the Rapture occurs before God’s wrath is poured out on the earth during Daniel’s Seventieth Week. No scripture specifically says there is, or there is not, a time period between the Rapture and Daniel’s Seventieth Week. However, some Bible scholars think that may be a limited duration time gap between the Rapture and the beginning of the seven year long Seventieth Week.

3.4 Distinction between Daniel’s Seventieth Week, the Tribulation & the Great Tribulation

As discussed in 3.1 above **Daniel’s Seventieth Week is clearly a seven year period**. It includes the events of Revelation 6:1 through Revelation 19:10. It is a time of God’s wrath, intended to bring many to repentance and salvation. Note that this begins with Revelation 6 which portrays the first six Seals of God’s judgment. Revelation 6:16-17 says that people called “Hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come.”

The Great Tribulation (see 3.2 above) refers to the last 3 ½ years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week.

This is clear because: 1) Daniel 9:27 says that in the “middle of the ‘seven’ on a wing of the temple he (the Beast) will set up an abomination that causes desolation”, and 2) Matthew 24:15-22 NASB & KJV which say that **“when you see the Abomination of Desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy Place” “then there will be a Great Tribulation**, such as not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall”. See also Mark 13:14-20 NASB & KJV; Daniel 12:1-2 and Revelation 7:13-14. These verses indicate that the **Great Tribulation** is the 3 ½ years which starts after the Abomination of Desolation is set up in the middle of **Daniel’s Seventieth Week**.

The Bible is not completely clear as to whether The Tribulation refers to the seven years of Daniel’s Seventieth Week, or whether it refers to the last 3 ½ years of Great Tribulation.

However, most people use the term **The Tribulation** as referring to the entire seven years of **Daniel’s Seventieth Week**. **And we will also use The Tribulation as the common name for Daniel’s Seventieth Week.** Clearly, basis Revelation 6:16-17, God’s wrath is poured out during the entire seven year period. Basis the Scripture references given in 2.3 above, we agree that the “Pre-Tribulation Rapture” occurs before the seven year period of God’s Wrath. And basis these Scripture references we do not agree with the “Mid-Tribulation Rapture” position.

3.5 God’s Purpose in Bringing About Daniel’s Seventieth Week

Daniel’s Seventieth Week **follows the Rapture** when all church age believers will be taken from earth to heaven to be with Jesus forever.

As such there will be **no believers left on earth** at the **start** of Daniel’s Seventieth Week.

This removal of these believers indwelt by the Holy Spirit results in great lawlessness on earth as described in the following verse: “For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back (the Holy Spirit indwelling believers) will continue to do so **till he (the Holy**

Spirit) is taken out of the way (at the Rapture when believers are removed from the earth).” 2 Thessalonians 2:7

Yet **God has a plan and a purpose** in bringing about Daniel’s Seventieth Week. And it is closely tied to God’s plan and purpose for Israel as stated in Daniel 9:24-27 and as outlined in 3.6 below. This is clearly seen in the following scripture about Daniel’s Seventy Weeks: “Seventy ‘sevens’ are **decreed for your people (Israel) and your holy city** to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy. He (the ruler who will come) will set up an abomination that causes desolation, **until the end that is decreed** is poured out on him.” Daniel 9:24,27

God intends to **test all those who live on earth** as seen in the following scripture: “I will also keep you (church age believers in Philadelphia per Revelation 3:7) from **the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.**” Revelation 3:10. This applies both to Israel (see 3.6 below) and to the Gentiles (see 3.7 below).

3.6 Outline of God’s Dealing with Israel After the Rapture

After all Church Age believing Israelites are taken to heaven in the Rapture, God will **deal with unbelieving Israel in special ways** during Daniel’s Seventieth Week. An outline of these ways is given in the following scriptures, although some deal with Daniel’s Seventieth Week and some deal with subsequent events at the Second Coming of Christ, or in the Millennial Kingdom.

God has not and will not reject Israel. See *Romans 11:1-2,11,13-15,23.*

God will take away from Israel their current hardness of heart. See *Romans 11:25-26.*

God will **assemble Israel from the nations** back to the land of Israel. This is already occurring, but will continue. See *Isaiah 11:11-12; Ezekiel 20:34,41-42 & Ezekiel 37:11-14.*

Israel will **listen to God.** See *Ezekiel 20:39-40,43-44.*

Israel will **seek the LORD.** See *Deuteronomy 4:29-30; Jeremiah 50:4-5 & Hosea 3:4-5.*

God makes a **New Covenant with Israel.** See *Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Romans 11:25-27; Hebrews 8:8-10,13 & Hebrews 9:15.* Refer also to 5.6 below, and to Hebrews 7:18-19,22; Hebrews 10:8-9,16 & Hebrews 12:24.

Daniel’s Seventieth Week will bring **testing** to everyone on earth. See *Revelation 3:10.*

Israel will be severely **persecuted.** See *Matthew 24:9 & Revelation 12:13-17.*

Yet many Israelites will **turn to God.** See *Deuteronomy 4:29-30 & Revelation 7:2-8.*

Israelites will be severely **refined by God.** See *Isaiah 48:9-10; Zechariah 13:8-9; Malachi 3:2-3 & Malachi 4:1-2.*

Many Israelites will become believers and be **martyred.** See *Revelation 11:3,7 & Revelation 17:6.*

Martyred Israelite believers will later be **resurrected** at Christ’s Second Coming. See *Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:1-3; John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 & Revelation 20:4-5.* Also, see 4.11 below.

But all believing Israelites will **enter the Millennial Kingdom** of Christ. See *1 Corinthians 15:21-25 & Revelation 20:4-5.*

All those still unbelieving Israelites will be **judged** and will presumably all die. See *Isaiah 1:20,28, Isaiah 65:11-12,15; Ezekiel 20:35-38; Amos 9:8-10 & Zechariah 13:8-9.* Refer also to Amos 5:3-4,6; Malachi 4:1-2 & Matthew 3:12.

These **unbelieving Israelites will not enter the Millennial Kingdom of Christ.** See *Ezekiel 20:35-38; Amos 9:8-10; Malachi 3:17-18; Malachi 4:1-3 & Revelation 20:4-5.*

Instead **all unbelieving Israelites will die before the Millennium.** See *Isaiah 1:20,28; Isaiah 65:12,15; Amos 9:10; Malachi 4:1 & Matthew 3:12.*

All Israel will be saved. This is the clear statement of Romans 11:25-26, but very few people believe this literally. However, God’s hand is not shortened that He will not literally do this marvelous thing.

All unbelieving Israelites will die physically before the start of the Millennium, so that at the time of the beginning of the Millennium **it will literally be true that all living Israelites will be saved** as God promised in Romans 11:25-27. *This is supported by Amos 9:8-11; Zechariah 13:8-9; Matthew 25:30; Romans 9:27-29,33 & Revelation 20:4-5.* Refer also to Isaiah 1:19-20,27-28; Isaiah 65:11-12,15; Ezekiel 20:35-38; Amos 3:12-15; Zephaniah 2:3; Malachi 4:1-2 & Matthew 3:12.

“Israel has experienced a **hardening in part** until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so **all Israel will be saved,** as it is written: ‘The Deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.’” Romans 11:25-27

3.7 Outline of God's Dealing with the Gentiles After the Rapture

God will also **deal with unbelieving gentiles** during Daniel's Seventieth Week. An outline of this is given in the following scriptures, although some deal with Daniel's Seventieth Week and some deal with subsequent events at the Second Coming of Christ, or in the Millennial Kingdom.

God intends to **test everyone** who lives on earth as seen in the following scripture: "I will also keep you (church age believers in Philadelphia per Revelation 3:7) from **the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.**" Revelation 3:10

The cup of God's wrath will be poured out on the gentiles. See Jeremiah 25:15-17,27-33.

Yet **many gentiles will become believers** during the Great Tribulation **and will be blessed by God** as indicated as follows:

"After this I looked and there before me was **a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language**, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes. And he said, 'These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'" Revelation 7:9,14,17

3.8 Relationship of the Day of the LORD to Daniel's Seventieth Week

The phrase **Day of the LORD** that is found in many scriptures, is a period of time that **starts with Daniel's Seventieth Week (the Tribulation), includes the Second Coming of Christ and the Millennium.** As such, the Day of the LORD begins right after the Rapture at the beginning of Daniel's Seventieth Week. See the following quotation:

Following is an extended excerpt from pages 230-231 of the book *Things to Come* by Dwight Pentecost: "The term **Day of the Lord** occurs in the following passages: Isaiah 2:12; Isaiah 13:6,9; Ezekiel 13:5; Ezekiel 30:3; Joel 1:15; Joel 2:1,11,31; Joel 3:14; Amos 5:18(twice),20; Obadiah 15; Zephaniah 1:7,14(twice); Zechariah 14:1; Malachi 4:5; Acts 2:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Thessalonians 2:2 and 2 Peter 3:10. In addition, the phrase *that day* or *the day* or *the great day* occurs more than 75 times in the Old Testament. The frequency with which it occurs will evidence its importance in the prophetic Scriptures. These passages reveal that the idea of judgment is paramount in all of them. This is so clearly brought out in Zephaniah 1:14-18. This judgment includes not only the specific judgments upon Israel and the nations at the end of the tribulation that are associated with the second advent, but, from a consideration of the passages themselves, includes judgments that extend over a period of time prior to the second advent. Thus, it is concluded that the Day of the Lord will include the time of the tribulation. Zechariah 14:1-4 makes it clear that the events of the second advent are included in the program of the Day of the Lord. 2 Peter 3:10 gives authority for including the entire millennial age within this period. If the Day of the Lord did not begin until the second advent, since that event is preceded by signs, the Day of the Lord could not come as a 'thief in the night,' unexpected and unheralded, as it is said it will come in 1 Thessalonians 5:2. The only way this day could break unexpectedly upon the world is to have it begin immediately after the rapture of the church. **It is thus concluded that the Day of the Lord is that extended period of time beginning with God's dealing with Israel after the rapture at the beginning of the tribulation period and extending through the second advent and the millennial age unto the creation of the new heavens and the new earth after the millennium.**"

In the broad sense, the Day of the LORD begins after the Rapture and goes through the Millennium.

However, **the term often refers more specifically to the day of the Second Coming of Christ.**

Renald Showers in his book *Maranatha – Our Lord, Come* says on page 39: "The expression '**the Day of the Lord**' has a double sense in relationship to the future. **First, in the broad sense** it refers to an extended period of time involving divine interventions related to the 70th week of Daniel 9 plus the thousand-year Millennium. **Second, in the narrow sense** it refers to one specific day – the day on which Christ will return to the earth from heaven with His angels."

3.9 Characteristics of the Day of the LORD

"Alas for that day! For **the day of the LORD** is near; it will come like **destruction** from the Almighty." Joel 1:15

- “Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, **for the day of the LORD is coming**. It is close at hand - **a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness.**” Joel 2:1-2
- “**The day of the LORD is great; it is dreadful**. Who can endure it? ‘Even now,’ declares the LORD, ‘return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.’” Joel 2:11-12
- “And afterward, **I will pour out my Spirit on all people**. Your sons and daughters will **prophesy**, your old men will **dream** dreams, your young men will see **visions**. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show **wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood** before the coming of the great and dreadful **day of the LORD**. And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” Joel 2:28-32 & Acts 2:17-21. See also Romans 10:13.
- “In those days and at that time, when I **restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem**, I will **gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat**. There I will enter into **judgment** against them **concerning my inheritance, my people Israel**, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.” Joel 3:1-2
- “Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there **I will sit to judge all the nations** on every side. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! **For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine**. The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; **the earth and the sky will tremble.**” Joel 3:12,14-16
- “This is what the LORD says:
 ‘For three sins of Damascus, even for four, **I will not turn back my wrath.**’....
 ‘For three sins of Gaza, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath.’....
 ‘For three sins of Tyre, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath.’....
 ‘For three sins of Edom, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath.’....
 ‘For three sins of Ammon, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath.’....
 ‘For three sins of Moab, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath.’....
 ‘For three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath.’....
 ‘For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath.’” Amos 1:3,6,9,11,13 & Amos 2:1,4,6
- “This is what the LORD says: ‘As a shepherd saves from the lion’s mouth only two leg bones or a piece of an ear, **so will the Israelites be saved.**’” Amos 3:12
- “I overthrew some of you as I overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah. You were like a burning stick snatched from the fire, yet you have not returned to me,’ declares the LORD. ‘Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel, and because I will do this to you, **prepare to meet your God, O Israel.**” Amos 4:11-12
- “This is what the LORD says to the house of Israel: ‘**Seek me and live.**’” Amos 5:4
- “Woe to you who long for **the day of the LORD!** Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be **darkness**, not light. Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light – **pitch-dark**, without a ray of brightness?” Amos 5:18,20
- “Then the LORD said to me, ‘The time is ripe for my people Israel; **I will spare them no longer.**’” Amos 8:2
- “**In that day,**’ declares the Sovereign LORD, ‘I will make the **sun go down at noon** and darken the earth in broad daylight.’” Amos 8:9
- “The days are coming,’ declares the Sovereign LORD, ‘when I will send a famine through the land – not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but **a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.**’” Amos 8:11
- “Surely the eyes of the Sovereign LORD are on the sinful kingdom. I will destroy it from the face of the earth - **yet I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob,**’ declares the LORD. ‘For I will give the command, and **I will shake the house of Israel.** All the sinners among my people will die by the sword.’” Amos 9:8-10
- “**The day of the LORD is near for all nations**. As you have done, it will be done to you; **But on Mount Zion will be deliverance;** it will be holy, and **the house of Jacob will possess its inheritance.**” Obadiah 15,17

3.10 Events of the First Half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week

The first half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week is **3 ½ years in duration**.

Daniel's Seventieth Week starts out with **no believers on earth** because all believers will have been taken to heaven in the immediately preceding Rapture.

Briefly, the **major events of the first half of Daniel's Seventieth Week** appear to be:

The Beast (the Antichrist) appears on the scene as a world power and as the head of the revived Roman Empire. See below in 3.10.

The Beast makes a seven year covenant with many, including Israel. See below in 3.10.

The temple is rebuilt. See below in 3.10.

The Great Prostitute heads up apostate Christianity. See below in 3.10.

Many Israelites and gentiles are born again. See below in 3.10.

The first six seal judgments. See below in 3.10.

"The Man of Lawlessness" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12) apparently **cannot be revealed until the Rapture removes all believers** from earth (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3,7-8). The Man of Lawlessness is called **"the ruler who will come"** in Daniel 9:26-27, and is also called **"the Beast"** in the following passages: Daniel 7:3,7-8,11,19-25; Revelation 11:7; Revelation 13:1-8,11-18; Revelation 14:9-11; Revelation 15:2; Revelation 16:2,10,13; Revelation 17:3,7-8,11-13,16-17; Revelation 19:19-20 & Revelation 20:4,10. He is also called **"the Antichrist"** in 1 John 2:18 & 1 John 4:3.

The removal of the all people indwelt by the Holy Spirit at the Rapture results in great lawlessness on earth as described in the following verse: "For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back (the Holy Spirit indwelling believers) will continue to do so **till he (the Holy Spirit) is taken out of the way** (at the Rapture when believers are removed from the earth)." 2 Thessalonians 2:7.

However, many Israelites and many gentiles will become believers during Daniel's Seventieth Week as is clear from Revelation 7:3-10,13-14.

"The ruler who will come (the Beast) He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven'. In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him." Daniel 9:26-27.

This seven year covenant presumably **starts at or near the beginning of Daniel's Seventieth Week.**

The **seven-year peace treaty** or covenant will be confirmed by the powerful ruler (the Beast) with many (including the nation Israel). See Daniel 9:26-27. This powerful ruler who will come, apparently is to be identified as **the little horn Beast** of Daniel 7:7-8,11,20-25 who will come from ten nations and will subdue three nations (Daniel 7:24). Also, per Daniel 9:26, this ruler (the Beast) is, or will be, **ruler over Roman people**, who were the people who destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in the year 70 AD. As such, apparently this ruler (the Beast) is, or will be, the **head of ten European nations.**

As such, there will be a **federation of ten countries in a revived Roman empire** headed by this little horn ruler (the Beast). See Daniel 2:40-44; Daniel 7:7-8,11,20-25; Daniel 8:9-12,23-25; Daniel 9:26-27 & Revelation 13:1-8.

The covenant that the ruler who will come (the Beast) makes with Israel is for a seven year period (Daniel 9:27). Apparently this is a covenant in which **this ruler guarantees peace for Israel.** This seven-year covenant starts at, or very near, the beginning of Daniel's Seventieth Week since Daniel 9:27 indicates that **this covenant is prematurely terminated** by this ruler in the middle of the seven-year period.

This **"ruler who will come"** (Daniel 9:26) is also identified as **"the Man of Lawlessness"** (2 Thessalonians 2:3-12), as **"the Beast"** (see references above in 3.10) and as **"the Antichrist"** (1 John 2:18 & 1 John 4:3).

Another event of the first 3 ½ years of Daniel's Seventieth Week is implied by Daniel 9:27, where the Jerusalem **temple is in existence** at the midpoint of Daniel's Seventieth Week. Since the temple is not currently in existence on the temple mount, therefore **the temple must be rebuilt** before the midpoint of Daniel's Seventieth Week. This rebuilding of the temple presumably takes place during the first 3 ½ years of Daniel's Seventieth Week, under the authorization of the ruler who will make the seven-year peace treaty with Israel. Conceivably, however, the temple could be rebuilt before the Rapture, but this would seem to detract from the imminence of the Rapture. Note that the rebuilding of the temple and the re-establishment of sacrifices is currently being actively planned and prepared for by some Orthodox Israelites in Israel. They reportedly have all the needed materials on hand.

After the rebuilding of the temple, **sacrifices and offerings will again be instituted**. This is implied by Daniel 9:27 and by Revelation 11:1-2.

There are a large number of scriptural events that take place during Daniel's Seventieth Week. Most of these events seem to take place during the last 3 ½ years. **And there is considerable uncertainty as to exactly which events occur during the first half of this seven year period**. However, a common view which seems correct is that the following scriptural passages refer to events in the first half of Daniel's Seventieth Week: Matthew 24:4-14 (before the Abomination of Desolation of Matthew 24:15); Mark 13:5-13 (before the Abomination of Desolation of Mark 13:14); Luke 21:8-19 and Revelation 6:1-17. Therefore, **these mentioned scripture passages will be briefly summarized below as probably occurring in the first half of Daniel's Seventieth Week:**

Many will deceive you claiming **"I am the Christ"**. Matthew 24:4-5; Mark 13:5-6 & Luke 21:8
There will be **wars and rumors of war**. Matthew 24:6-7; Mark:13:7-8; Luke 21:9-10 & Revelation 6:2,4

There will be **famines, earthquakes, pestilences and signs from heaven**. Matthew 24:7; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11 & Revelation 6:5-8,12-14

You will be **hated, persecuted and killed because of Christ**. Matthew 24:9; Mark 13:12-13; Luke 21:12,16-17 & Revelation 6:9-11

Many will **turn away from the faith and hate each other**. Matthew 24:10 & Mark 13:13

False prophets will deceive many. Matthew 24:11

You will be **brought to court** because of Christ. Matthew 24:9; Mark 13:9,11 & Luke 21:12

You will be a **witness to Christ**. Mark 13:9; Luke 21:13 & Revelation 6:9

You will be given what to respond to those who accuse you. Mark 13:11 & Luke 21:14-15

There will be an **increase in wickedness**. Matthew 24:12

He who **stands firm to the end will be saved**. Matthew 24:13 & Mark 13:13

The gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14 & Mark 13:10

Family members will **betray each other**. Mark 13:12 & Luke 21:16

Additionally, **the following Seal Judgments** probably occur in the first half of Daniel's Seventieth Week:

First seal - Rider on a white horse rode out to **conquer**. Revelation 6:1-2

Second seal - Rider on a red horse is given power to cause **war and killing**. Revelation 6:3-4

Third seal - Rider on a black horse brings **high food prices and famine**. Revelation 6:5-6

Fourth seal – Rider on a pale horse brings **death by sword, famine, plague and wild beasts** over a fourth of the earth. Revelation 6:7-8

Fifth seal – The souls of believers who have been **martyred** because of their testimony, cry out to God for avenging justice, and are **given white robes** and are told to wait a little longer. Revelation 6:9-11

Sixth seal – A **great earthquake, sun turned black, moon turned red, stars fall to earth, strong winds, mountains and islands removed**, all people hid in caves and among mountain rocks. Revelation 6:12-17

Probably also occurring in this time frame, although found later in Revelation 17, is the prophecy concerning **the Great Prostitute, called Babylon the Great**. The kings of the earth commit adultery with the great prostitute (verses 1-2), who is the personification called "Babylon the Great" (verse 5), the great city that rules over the kings of the earth (verse 18). **The Great Prostitute (Babylon the Great) rides on the Beast** (verses 3,7); **and is drunk with the blood of the saints, who bore testimony to Jesus** (verse 6). She (Babylon the Great) sits on seven hills (verse 9). Revelation 17:1-15,18. Note that it is uncertain whether the powerful and great city of Babylon in Revelation 17:1 through Revelation 19:5 is the city of Rome, Italy (likely), the rebuilt city of Babylon, Iraq, or some other great and powerful city. **Babylon the Great may represent apostate Christendom based at Rome that dominates worldwide religion for 3 ½ years in the first half of Daniel's Seventieth Week, before being overthrown by the Beast**. Also, see 3.11 and 3.13 below concerning the fall and burning of Babylon the Great recorded in Revelation 17:16 through Revelation 19:5.

Another important event that **apparently occurs during the first half of Daniel's Seventieth Week, and probably just before the midpoint of Daniel's Seventieth Week, is the invasion of Israel by huge armies coming mainly from Russia**, as well as from several other nations. This is recorded in detail in Ezekiel 38:1 through Ezekiel 39:24. The invading armies include Gog, Magog, Meshech,

Tubal, Persia, Cush, Put, Gomer and Beth Togarmah (Ezekiel 38:2-3,5-6). **These “fully armed hordes”** (Ezekiel 38:4,7,13,15) **will advance into Israel “like a cloud covering the land”** (Ezekiel 38:9,16), **even when “my people Israel are living in safety”** (Ezekiel 38:14). **But God intervenes** as follows:

“This is what will happen in that day: **When Gog attacks the land of Israel, my hot anger will be aroused, declares the Sovereign LORD.** In my zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. All the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground. **I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Sovereign LORD. Every man’s sword will be against his brother. I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed;** I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur upon him and on his troops and on the many nations with him.” Ezekiel 38:18-22

“**On the mountains of Israel you (Gog) will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you.** I will give you as food to all kinds of carrion birds and to the wild animals.” Ezekiel 39:4

Note that the LORD totally defeats these enemy hordes, without Israel having to do anything: “I will make known my holy name among my people Israel. I will no longer let my name be profaned, and the nations will know that **I the LORD am the Holy One in Israel.**” Ezekiel 39:7

“On that day I will give Gog a burial place in Israel. Gog and all his hordes will be buried there. **For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them** in order to cleanse the land. All the people of the land will bury them, and the day I am glorified will be a memorable day for them, declares the Sovereign LORD.” Ezekiel 39:11-13

3.11 Events at the Midpoint of Daniel’s Seventieth Week

The primary events that occur at **the midpoint of the seven year period** of Daniel’s Seventieth Week are as follows:

The sealing of 144,000 Israelite believers in Revelation 7:1-8 probably occurs at the midpoint of Daniel’s Seventieth Week, or possibly in the first half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week.

“**Put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.**’ Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: **144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.**” Revelation 7:3-4

The little horn ruler (the Beast) “will speak against the Most High and oppose his saints. The saints will be handed over to him for **a time, times and half a time.**” Daniel 7:25. See 3.10 above. Note that this little horn ruler is also called “**the ruler who will come**” in Daniel 9:26, “**the Man of Lawlessness**” in 2 Thessalonians 2:3, “**the Beast**” in several passages (see 3.10 above) and “**the Antichrist**” in 1 John 2:18. This oppression of God’s saints will apparently continue throughout the last half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week.

He “**oppresses**” God’s saints – Daniel 7:25; 2 Thessalonians 2:4 & Revelation 13:5-7.

He comes with “**Satanic miracles, signs and wonders**” – 2 Thessalonians 2:9.

He is “**given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation**” – Revelation 13:7.

He **breaks his seven year covenant** with Israel – Daniel 7:25 & Daniel 9:27. This breaking of covenant occurs at the midpoint of the seven year period per Daniel 9:27.

He **stops the daily Temple sacrifice** – Daniel 9:27 & Daniel 12:11.

He is revealed as **the Man of Lawlessness** – 2 Thessalonians 2:3,6-9.

He **sets up an idol** of himself in the temple – Daniel 9:27; Daniel 12:11; Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:4 & Revelation 13:14-15.

The idol is called the **abomination of desolation** – Daniel 9:27; Daniel 12:11; Matthew 24:15 & Mark 13:14.

He exalts himself and **proclaims himself to be God** – Daniel 11:36-37; 2 Thessalonians 2:4 & Revelation 13:8,15.

God tells the believers in Judea to **flee to the mountains** when the idol is set up – Matthew 24:15-21 & Mark 13:14-19.

He starts **severe persecution of Israel lasting 3 ½ years** – Daniel 7:25; Daniel 12:6-7,11; Revelation 11:2-3; Revelation 12:6,14 & Revelation 13:5,7. This persecution of Israel will apparently continue throughout the last half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week.

This starts the **worst time of distress ever** – Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21 & Mark 13:19

He is **doomed to destruction** – Daniel 7:21-22,26; Daniel 9:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:3,8; Revelation 19:19-20 & Revelation 20:10.

- “**He (the Beast) will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints** and try to change the set times and the laws. **The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.**” Daniel 7:25. This apparently will continue throughout the last half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week.
- “**In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice** and offering. And on a wing of the **temple** he will set up **an abomination that causes desolation**, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.” Daniel 9:27
- “There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. ‘How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?’ **‘It will be for a time, times and half a time.’** **From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.**” Daniel 12:1,6-7,11. Again, this distress will apparently continue throughout the last half of Daniel’ Seventieth Week.
- “So when you see standing in the holy place **‘the abomination that causes desolation’** spoken of **through the prophet Daniel** – let the reader understand – then let those who are in Judea **flee to the mountains**. Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. **For then there will be great distress (Tribulation), unequalled from the beginning of the world until now** – and never to be equaled again.” Matthew 24:15-18,21. This distress will apparently continue throughout the last half of Daniel’ Seventieth Week.
- “When you see **‘the abomination that causes desolation’** standing where it does not belong – let the reader understand – then let those who are in Judea **flee to the mountains**. Those will be **days of distress (Tribulation)** unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now – and never to be equaled again.” Mark 13:14,19. This distress will apparently continue throughout the last half of Daniel’ Seventieth Week.
- “That day (**the day of the Lord** basis 2 Thessalonians 2:2) **will not come until the** rebellion (or probably instead the **Rapture** as discussed in 2.2 and 2.3 above) **occurs and the Man of Lawlessness is revealed**, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that **he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.**” 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. Note that the first part of this (verse 3) presumably occurs at the beginning of Daniel’s Seventieth Week, whereas **the last part (verse 4) occurs at the midpoint.**
- The Gentiles will trample Jerusalem for 42 months.** Revelation 11:1-2. Again, this gentile trampling of Jerusalem will apparently continue throughout the last half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week.
- God’s Two Witnesses are given power to “prophesy for 1,260 days,** clothed in sackcloth. If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies.” Revelation 11:3-12. God’s Two Witnesses will apparently prophesy throughout the last half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week. The identity of God’s Two Witnesses is uncertain, but **they may be Enoch and Elijah** who both were removed from earth by God without dying. Refer to Genesis 5:22-24; 2 Kings 2:11 & Jude 14-15. Note also that Malachi 4:5-6 says that God will send Elijah back to earth before the Second Coming. See also 3.13 and 3.15 concerning the continuing ministry of God’s Two Witnesses.
- A woman (representing Israel) was about to give birth to a son (Jesus), but the Dragon (Satan) stood waiting to devour the son at birth.** The son was instead snatched up to God, and the woman fled into the desert **to be taken care of by God for 1,260 days.** Revelation 12:1-6. This care will apparently continue throughout the last half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week.
- The Dragon (Satan) is cast out of heaven to earth** - There was war in heaven, and the **Dragon (Satan) and his angels were hurled to earth.** Revelation 12:7-13. See also Isaiah 14:12-15 and Luke 10:18.
- Then the Dragon (Satan) pursued the woman (representing Israel), but she was given two wings to fly to the place of God’s protection in the desert for a time, times and half a time.** The Dragon spewed water like a river from his mouth to sweep her away, but the earth swallowed the river. Then the Dragon was enraged and instead went to make war against those who have trusted in Jesus. Revelation 12:13-17. This protection will apparently continue throughout the last half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week.
- “**The Dragon (Satan) gave the Beast (the Antichrist) his power** and his throne and great authority. The Beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to **exercise his authority for forty-two months.** He was given power to make **war against the saints** and to conquer them. And **he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation.** **All the**

inhabitants of the earth will worship the Beast – all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world.” Revelation 13:2,5,7-8. This will apparently continue throughout the last half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week.

Another beast (the False Prophet of Revelation 16:13, Revelation 19:20 & Revelation 20:10) exercised all the authority of the Beast, performed miraculous signs, **deceived and caused everyone on earth to worship the Beast**. Revelation 13:11-17. The False Prophet will do his work throughout the last half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week.

“He (the False Prophet) ordered them to set up an image in honor of the Beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first Beast, so that **it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.**” Revelation 13:14-15

“He (the False Prophet) also forced everyone to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead, so that **no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the Beast** or the number of his name. **His number is 666.**” Revelation 13:16-18

The Fall of the Great Prostitute called Babylon the Great – See 3.10 above concerning the great power of Babylon the Great, probably in the first half Daniel’s Seventieth Week (Revelation 17:1-15,18). But later, probably at the midpoint of Daniel’s Seventieth Week, **the Beast hates her (Babylon the Great), and kills and burns her so that he will have the power to rule**. Revelation 17:16-17. But also see 3.13 below concerning the results of the fall of Babylon the Great recorded in Revelation 18:1 through Revelation 19:5.

3.12 Characteristics of the Last Half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week

“Alas for that day! For the day of the LORD is near; it will come like **destruction from the Almighty.**” Joel 1:15

“Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand – **a day of darkness** and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains **a large and mighty army comes**, such as never was of old nor ever will be in ages to come.” Joel 2:1-2

“Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and **he relents from sending calamity**. Then the LORD will be jealous for his land and **take pity on his people.**” Joel 2:13,18

“Even on my servants, both men and women, **I will pour out my spirit in those days**. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth. **The sun will be turned to darkness** and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And **everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.**” Joel 2:29-32

“In those days and at that time, when I **restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all nations** and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. **There I will enter into judgment against them** concerning my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.” Joel 3:1-2

“Proclaim this among the nations: **Prepare for war!** Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there **I will sit to judge all the nations** on every side. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. **The sun and the moon will be darkened, the earth and the sky will tremble.** But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.” Joel 3:9,12,14-16

“For three sins of **Moab**, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath. I will send fire upon **Moab** that will consume the fortresses of Kerioth. For three sins of **Judah**, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath. I will send fire upon **Judah** that will consume the fortresses of Jerusalem. For three sins of **Israel**, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath. I will crush you (**Israel**) as a cart crushes when loaded with grain.” Amos 2:1-2,4-6,13

“This is what the LORD says: ‘As a shepherd saves from the lion’s mouth only two leg bones or a piece of an ear, **so will the Israelites be saved.**’ ‘Hear this and testify against the house of Jacob,’ declares the Lord, the LORD God Almighty. **‘On the day I punish Israel for her sins, I will destroy.’** declares the LORD.” Amos 3:12-15

“‘Yet you have not returned to me,’ declares the LORD. (This is repeated five times in verses 6,8-11) **‘Prepare to meet your God, O Israel.’**” Amos 4:6,8-12

- “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘The city that marches out a thousand strong for Israel will have only a hundred left; the town that marches out a hundred strong will have only ten left.’ This is what the LORD says to the house of Israel: **‘Seek me and live.** Seek the LORD and live, or he will sweep through the house of Joseph like a fire.’” Amos 5:3-4,6
- “There will be **wailing in all the streets and cries of anguish** in every public square. for I will pass through your midst.” Amos 5:16-17
- “Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? **That day will be darkness,** not light.” Amos 5:18
- “Then the LORD said to me, **‘The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.** In that day,’ declares the Sovereign LORD, ‘the songs in the temple will turn to wailing. Many, many bodies – flung everywhere! Silence!’” Amos 8:2-3
- “In that day,’ declares the Sovereign LORD, **‘I will make the sun go down at noon** and darken the earth in broad daylight.” Amos 8:9
- “The days are coming,’ declares the Sovereign LORD, ‘when I will send a famine through the land – not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but **a famine of hearing the words of the LORD.**” Amos 8:11
- “Surely the eyes of the Sovereign LORD are on the sinful kingdom. **I will destroy it from the face of the earth – yet I will not totally destroy the house of Jacob,**’ declares the LORD. ‘For I will give the command, and I will shake the house of Israel among all the nations. **All the sinners among my people will die by the sword.**” Amos 9:8-10
- “In that day **I will restore David’s fallen tent.**” Amos 9:11
- “I will bring back my exiled people Israel. **I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted** from the land I have given them,’ says the LORD your God.” Amos 9:14-15
- “But on Mount Zion will be deliverance; it will be holy, and **the house of Jacob will possess its inheritance.**” Obadiah 17
- “The great day of the LORD is near – near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the day of the LORD will be **bitter,** the shouting of the warrior there. That day will be a day of **wrath,** a day of **distress and anguish,** a day of **trouble and ruin,** a day of **darkness and gloom,** a day of **clouds and blackness.**” Zephaniah 1:14-15
- “**Seek the LORD,** all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; **perhaps you will be sheltered** on the day of the LORD’s anger.” Zephaniah 2:3
- “I have decided to **assemble the nations,** to gather the kingdoms and **pour out my wrath on them** – all my fierce anger. **Then will I purify the lips of the peoples,** that all of them may call on the name of the LORD.” Zephaniah 3:8-9
- “Though I scatter them among the peoples, yet in distant lands they will remember me. They and their children will survive and **they will return.**” Zechariah 10:9
- “I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all **the surrounding peoples reeling.** Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make **Jerusalem an immovable rock** for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. On that day I will set out to **destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem.**” Zechariah 12:2-3,9
- “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem **a spirit of grace and supplication.** They will **look on me, the one they have pierced,** and **they will mourn** for him as one mourns for an only child.” Zechariah 12:10
- “On that day **a fountain will be opened** to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, **to cleanse them from sin and impurity.**” Zechariah 13:1
- “In the whole land (of Israel),’ declares the LORD, **‘two-thirds will be struck down and perish;** yet one-third will be left in it. **This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them** like silver and test them like gold. **They will call on my name** and I will answer them; **I will say, “They are my people,”** and they will say, “The LORD is our God.”” Zechariah 13:8-9
- “I will **gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it.** Then the LORD will go out **and fight against those nations,** as he fights in the day of battle. On that day **his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,** east of Jerusalem.” Zechariah 14:2-4
- “This is **the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that fought against Jerusalem:** Their flesh will rot while they are still standing on their feet, their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongues will rot in their mouths. On that day men will be stricken by the LORD with great panic.” Zechariah 14:12-13

“See, **I will send you the prophet Elijah** before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.”
Malachi 4:5

“Be on your guard against men; **they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you** in their synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.” Matthew 10:17-18

“All men will **hate you because of me**, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. When you are **persecuted** in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.” Matthew 10:22-23

3.13 Events in Revelation of the Last Half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week

This last half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week is 3 ½ years in duration. It is called **the Great Tribulation**.
Matthew 24:21 (NASB); Mark 13:19 (NASB) & Revelation 7:14

After the events that occur at the midpoint of Daniel’s Seventieth Week (see 3.11 above), **the following events from the book of Revelation appear to occur** during the last half of Daniel’s Seventieth Week, also called the Great Tribulation:

“After this I looked and there before me **was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language**, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes’These are they who have **come out of the Great Tribulation**; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” Revelation 7:9,14

Seventh Seal – Seven angels are given seven trumpets to sound, **and a golden censer filled with burning incense is hurled onto the earth, causing thunder, lightning and an earthquake**.
Revelation 8:1-5

First Trumpet – “There came **hail and fire mixed with blood**, and it was hurled down upon the earth. **A third of the earth was burned up**, a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.” Revelation 8:7

Second Trumpet – “Something like **a huge mountain, all ablaze**, was thrown into the sea. **A third of the sea turned into blood**, a third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.” Revelation 8:8-9

Third Trumpet – “**A great star, blazing like a torch**, fell from the sky on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water – the name of the star is Wormwood. **A third of the waters turned bitter**, and many people died from the waters.” Revelation 8:10-11

Fourth Trumpet – “**A third of the sun was struck**, a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of them turned dark. **A third of the day was without light**, and also a third of the night.”
Revelation 8:12

Fifth Trumpet and First Woe – A star falls from sky to the earth. The Abyss (Bottomless Pit) is opened. The sun and sky are darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. **Locusts with stingers coming out of the Abyss are given power for five months to torture those not having the seal of God on their foreheads**, and men seek death. Revelation 9:1-12

Sixth Trumpet – Four angels are released at the river Euphrates to **kill a third of mankind using two hundred million horsemen and using their horses**, with fire, smoke and sulfur coming out of the horses mouths. **The rest of mankind, that are not killed, still do not repent of their sins**.
Revelation 9:13-21. Note that this huge army of 200,000,000, after these battles, is probably among those gathered at Armageddon (Revelation 16:12-16) to attack and sack Jerusalem as described in Zechariah 14:2-4 (and also Joel 3:2,9-16; Zechariah 12:2-3 & Revelation 19:19). See also 4.5 below.

The Angel with a Little Scroll – An angel coming down from heaven makes **an announcement, then gives the little scroll to the Apostle John to eat**. It is as sweet as honey in his mouth, but sour in his stomach. Revelation 10:1-11

The Temple – John is told to measure the temple. **Gentiles “will trample on the holy city for 42 months**.” Revelation 11:1-2. See also Luke 21:24.

God’s Two Witnesses – “**I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days**, clothed in sackcloth. If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain, ,,, to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague.” Revelation 11:3,5-6. See 3.15 below for the concluding events of the Two Witnesses found in Revelation 11:7-12.

- Second Woe** – Then a severe earthquake in Jerusalem causes a tenth of the city to collapse with seven thousand deaths. Survivors are terrified and give glory to the God of heaven. Revelation 11:13-14
- Seventh Trumpet and Third Woe** – There is worship of God in heaven. A great sign appears in heaven: **A woman (representing Israel) was about to give birth to a son (Jesus), but a Dragon (Satan) stood waiting to devour the son at birth.** The son was instead snatched up to God, and the woman fled into the desert to be taken care of by God for **1,260 days**. Revelation 11:15 through Revelation 12:6.
- Then the Dragon (Satan) pursued the woman (representing Israel), but she was given two wings to fly to the place of God’s protection in the desert for a time, times and half a time.** The Dragon spewed water like a river from his mouth to sweep her away, but the earth swallowed the river. Then the Dragon was angry and instead went to make war against those who have trusted in Jesus. Revelation 12:13-17.
- The Beast coming out of the Sea, and the False Prophet coming out of the earth** – **“The Beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.”** Revelation 13:1-18. This probably starts at the midpoint of Daniel’s Seventieth Week. See 3.11 above.
- The Lamb and the 144,000** – The 144,000 sealed Israelites (see Revelation 7), who had God’s name written on their foreheads, **sing a new song to God.** Revelation 14:1-5
- Angelic Visions of the End** – An angel **proclaims the eternal gospel** to those who live on earth. Another angel **warns people not to receive the mark of the Beast** (Revelation 13:16-17), because otherwise they will receive God’s wrath and eternal judgment. The Son of Man is seen as swinging his sickle and harvesting the earth. An angel also swings his sickle and **gathers grapes (people) into the great winepress of God’s wrath.** Revelation 14:6-20.
- Note that these visions (Revelation 14:6-20) are anticipatory of the Second Coming of Christ to the Mount of Olives, and of his defeat and destruction of the nations who oppose him.** These nations have gathered huge armies (initially 200 million per Revelation 9:16), that rendezvous at Armageddon (Revelation 16:14,16) and then sack Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:2). But then **Christ returns to earth on the Mount of Olives and totally defeats these armies outside Jerusalem at the Valley of Jehoshaphat** as described in Joel 3:1-2,9-16; Zechariah 12:2-3,7-9; Zechariah 14:2-9; Revelation 14:14-20 & Revelation 19:11,15-21. Regarding this see 4.5 below. Then will occur the **great winepress of God’s wrath** per Joel 3:13; Revelation 14:19-20 & Revelation 19:15.
- Seven Angels Prepared with Seven Bowls of God’s Wrath** – Out of the heavenly temple come seven angels, who are given **seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God to be poured out on the earth.** Revelation 15:1 through Revelation 16:1
- First Bowl** – Produces **painful sores** on people who have the mark of the Beast. Revelation 16:2
- Second Bowl** – Produces blood in the seas; and **every living creature in the sea dies.** Revelation 16:3
- Third Bowl** – Produces **blood in the rivers and springs.** Revelation 16:4-7
- Fourth Bowl** – The sun is given power to **scorch people with fire**, but they refuse to repent. Revelation 16:8-9
- Fifth Bowl** – The Beast’s kingdom is **plunged into darkness**, but men refuse to repent. Revelation 16:10-11
- Sixth Bowl and Preparation at Armageddon for Battle** - The River Euphrates dries up to prepare the way for the armies of the kings from the east. Then the Dragon (Satan), the Beast and the False Prophet perform miraculous signs and **gather the armies of the kings of the whole world to Armageddon in preparation for battle against Israel and against God.** Revelation 16:12-16. See 4.5 below.
- Seventh Bowl** – Produces a very severe worldwide earthquake that collapses the cities of the nations. Every island flees away and **mountains can not be found.** Huge **hailstones of a hundred pounds each fall upon men**, but they curse God. Revelation 16:17-21
- The Results of the fall of Babylon the Great** (see Babylon the Great’s greatness as discussed in 3.10 and in 3.11 above, and then its fall in Revelation 17:16-17) – Thereafter in Revelation 18:1 through Revelation 19:5, **the kings and the merchants of the earth mourn for the burned prostitute, Babylon the Great, because their economic livelihood has been destroyed.** Also, sea captains and sailors mourn because of their loss of commerce when they see the smoke of Babylon burning.

Then a great multitude in heaven shouts Hallelujah because God has judged and condemned the prostitute.

3.14 Other Events of the Last Half of Daniel's Seventieth Week

The following scriptures are additional events of the last half of Daniel's Seventieth Week that have not already been given as characteristics of this time in 3.12 above, or as events of this time from the book of Revelation in 3.13 above:

There is **severe persecution of Israel** lasting **3 ½ years: The Time of Jacob's Trouble** (see Jeremiah 30:7); **A time, times and half a time** (see Daniel 7:25, Daniel 12:7 & Revelation 12:14); **1,290 days** (see Daniel 12:11); **1,335 days** (see Daniel 12:12); **42 months** (see Revelation 11:2 & Revelation 13:5); and **1,260 days** (see Revelation 11:3 & Revelation 12:6).

This 3 ½ years will be the worst time of distress (tribulation) ever. See Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21-22,29-30; Mark 13:19-20,24-26; Luke 21:23,26-27 & Revelation 7:9,14.

Israelites will be severely **refined by God**. See Zechariah 13:8-9.

Israel will be **judged** by God. See Ezekiel 20:35-38.

Unrepentant Israelite sinners will die. See Isaiah 1:9,20,28; Isaiah 65:11-12,15; Amos 5:3-4,6; Amos 9:8-10; Zechariah 13:8-9; Matthew 3:12 & Romans 9:27-28.

The cup of God's wrath will be poured out on the gentiles. See Psalm 2:4-6,10-12; Isaiah 2:9-21; Isaiah 24:1-23; Isaiah 26:21 & Jeremiah 25:15-17,27-29,31-33.

False Christs appear and perform great miracles to try to deceive the elect. See Matthew 24:23-26; Mark 13:21-23 and 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12.

There will be great wars. See Daniel 11:40-44 & Revelation 9:13-21.

All nations send their armies against Israel. See Daniel 11:40-41,45; Joel 3:2,9-12; Zephaniah 3:8; Zechariah 12:2-3; Zechariah 14:2; Revelation 16:12-14,16 & Revelation 19:11,19.

All nations gather against Jerusalem and capture it. See Zechariah 14:1-2.

Two-thirds of Israel will perish. See Zechariah 13:8.

"They (Israel) will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son." Zechariah 12:10

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14. Note that the preaching of the gospel in the whole world may be completed in the first half of Daniel's Seventieth Week, but it certainly will be completed by the end of the second half, before the Second Coming of Christ.

3.15 Concluding Events of the Last Half of Daniel's Seventieth Week

The following events of the last half of Daniel's Seventieth Week, **occur throughout the last half, but conclude at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to earth:**

The little horn ruler (the Beast) "will speak against the Most High and oppose his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time." Daniel 7:25

Daniel 12:1-13 indicates that after **the daily temple sacrifice is abolished, and the Abomination of Desolation is set up** (both in verse 11), there will be **a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then** (verse 1). This will be for **a time, times and half a time** (verse 7), or said to be for **1,290 days** (verse 11).

"There will be a **Great Tribulation**, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall." Matthew 24:21 NASB. Note that **this verse is between the Abomination of Desolation** standing in the holy place (verse 15), and **the Son of Man coming** with power and great glory (verse 30).

"Those will be **days of distress (Tribulation) unequaled from the beginning**, when God created the world, until now – and never to be equaled again." Mark 13:19. Note that **this verse is between the Abomination of Desolation** standing where it does not belong (verse 14), and **the Son of Man coming** with power and glory (verse 26).

A great multitude of **gentile believers are martyred in the Great Tribulation**. Revelation 7:9,13-14
Unbelieving gentiles trample Jerusalem for 42 months. Revelation 11:1-2

God's Two Witnesses – They are given power to prophesy for 1,260 days (see 3.11 and 3.13 above). **But then the Beast comes up from the Abyss (Bottomless Pit) and kills the Two**

Witnesses. Their bodies will lie in the street in Jerusalem for three and a half days, as seen by the whole world. Then a breath of life from **God brings them back to life, and they are taken to heaven** while their enemies look on. Revelation 11:3-12

The Woman (Israel), who gives birth to a son (Jesus), is pursued by the Dragon (Satan), but she flees to the place prepared in the desert, where **she is taken care of by God for 1,260 days** (verse 6), which is **a time, times and half a time** (verse 14). Revelation 12:1-6,13-17

The Beast is given authority by the Dragon (Satan). The whole world follows and worships the Beast, and **he exercises his authority for forty-two months** (verse 5). Revelation 13:1-10

The following events conclude just before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to earth:

The Dragon (Satan), the Beast and the False Prophet cause the kings of the whole world (and their armies) to gather at Armagedon for war. Revelation 16:13-16. Note that Armagedon is the military assembly point, but the main battle seems to occur just outside Jerusalem as indicated below in 3.15 and in 4.5 below.

“I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped.” Zechariah 14:2. Note that the next two verses say that; **“Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations,** as he fights on the day of battle. **On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,** east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two.”

“I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat (adjacent to Jerusalem). There I will enter into judgment against them.” Joel 3:2. See also Joel 3:12-16.

“On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem.” Zechariah 12:3,9

4 The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

4.1 The Second Coming of Christ per Revelation 19:11-21

“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, **whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His name is the Word of God.**” Revelation 19:11,13

“The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.” Revelation 19:14

“Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter.’ **He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.**” Revelation 19:15

“On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” Revelation 19:16

“And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, ‘Come, gather together for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and mighty men, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, small and great.” Revelation 19:17-18

“Then I saw the Beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the Beast was captured, and with him the False Prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the Beast and worshipped his image. **The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.**” Revelation 19:19-20

“The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.” Revelation 19:21

These armies who are all killed by Jesus Christ at his second coming, will later be among those peoples who are resurrected at the end of the Millennium (see 6.3 below) to undergo their final formal eternal judgment at the Great White Throne Judgment (see 6.4 below). And, as a result of this final judgment **they, whose names are not found written in the book of life, will be thrown into the lake of fire,** which is the second death. See Revelation 20:11-15.

Revelation 19:11-21 gives the overview of the Second Coming of Christ. **The atmospheric conditions and the location of his return are given in 4.3 and 4.4 below.** And **the details of his defeat of the armies gathered against his people Israel are given in 4.5 below.**

4.2 Other Accounts of the Second Coming of Christ

"The Redeemer will come to Zion." Isaiah 59:20

"The saints will be handed over to him (the Beast) for a time, times and half a time. But the court will sit, and **his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever.**" Daniel 7:25-26

"The earth shakes, the sky trembles, the sun and moon are darkened, and the stars no longer shine. **The LORD thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number,** and mighty are those who obey his command. **The day of the LORD is great;** it is dreadful. Who can endure it?" Joel 2:10-11

"I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, **when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations.** All who try to move it will injure themselves." Zechariah 12:2-3

"On that day the LORD will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the Angel of the LORD going before them. **On that day I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem.** And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. **They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child,** and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son." Zechariah 12:8-10

"I will gather all nations to Jerusalem to fight against it. Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as he fights in the day of battle. On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem. The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name." Zechariah 14:2-4,9

"For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even to the west, **so will be the coming of the Son of Man.** Immediately after the distress of those days **'the sun will be darkened,** and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." Matthew 24:27,29

"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. **They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.** And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other." Matthew 24:30-31

"At that time **men will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.** And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens." Mark 13:26-27

"There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. The heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time **they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.**" Luke 21:25-27

"Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? **This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**' Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called **the Mount of Olives.**" Acts 1:11-12

"He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets." Acts 3:21

"When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. **He will punish those who do not know God** and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus." 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8

"And then **the Lawless One will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow** with the breath of his mouth and **destroy by the splendor of his coming.**" 2 Thessalonians 2:8

"He (Christ) will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but **to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.**" Hebrews 9:28

"See, **the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone.**" Jude 14-15

"Look, **he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him,** even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him." Revelation 1:7

4.3 Darkness and Earthquake at the Second Coming of Christ

"See, the day of the LORD is coming. The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. **The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.**" Isaiah 13:9-10

- “Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you!
You came down, and the mountains trembled before you.” Isaiah 64:1,3
- “**The day of the LORD** is coming. It is close at hand—a **day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness.**” Joel 2:1-2
- “**The earth shakes, the sky trembles, the sun and moon are darkened,** and the stars no longer shine. The LORD thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty are those who obey his command. The day of the LORD is great; **it is dreadful.** Who can endure it?” Joel 2:10-11
- “**The sun will be turned to darkness** and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.” Joel 2:31
- “Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there **I will sit to judge all the nations** on every side. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For **the day of the LORD** is near in the valley of decision. **The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine.** The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; **the earth and the sky will tremble.**” Joel 3:12,14-16
- “Woe to you who long for **the day of the LORD!** Why do you long for the day of the LORD? **That day will be darkness,** not light. Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light – **pitch-dark,** without a ray of brightness?” Amos 5:18,20
- “**Will not the land tremble?** ‘In that day,’ declares the Sovereign LORD, ‘I will make the **sun go down at noon** and darken the earth in broad daylight.’” Amos 8:8-9
- “The great day of the LORD is near – near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the day of the LORD will be **bitter,** the shouting of the warrior there. That day will be a day of **wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness.**” Zephaniah 1:14-15
- “On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and **the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley,** with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. **On that day there will be no light,** no cold or frost. It will be a unique day, without daytime or nighttime – a day known to the LORD. When evening comes, there will be light.” Zechariah 14:4-7
- “Immediately after the distress (Tribulation) of those days **‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;** the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.” Matthew 24:29 & Mark 13:24-25
- “For the Son of Man in his day **will be like the lightning,** which flashes and lights up the sky from one end to the other.” Luke 17:24
- “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for **the heavenly bodies will be shaken.** At that time **they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud** with power and great glory.” Luke 21:25-27

4.4 Christ Returns to Earth on the Mount of Olives

- “Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle. On that day **his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,** east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come and all the holy ones with him.” Zechariah 14:3-5
- “After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes. Suddenly two men dressed in white stood before them. ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? **This same Jesus,** who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**’ Then they returned to Jerusalem from **the hill called the Mount of Olives.**” Acts 1:9-12

4.5 Christ Defeats the Armies Based at Armageddon

- At the sixth trumpet earlier in Revelation 9:13-19, **a third of mankind is killed by a huge army of 200 million mounted troops.** This huge army is probably among the **armies that later gathers to the kings of the whole world at Armageddon** per Revelation 16:12-16.

The huge armies of the kings **are gathered together “for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty”** - Revelation 16:14 NASB. They are gathered and **based at Armageddon per Revelation 16:16**. Note that this does not conclusively say that Armageddon is the place of the main battle, but rather that the huge armies are **gathered there for the war**. Armageddon is the ancient hill and valley of Megiddo located in the plain of Jezreel between Samaria and Galilee, and the adjacent broad plain is ideal for being a “staging area” for the huge armies.

Note that **the Greek word “battle” in Revelation 16:14 NIV is better translated as “war” (NASB), or “campaign”**. And though the armies are initially gathered at Armageddon for war, **the actual main battle against Israel and the returning Christ probably instead occurs just outside Jerusalem at the Valley of Jehoshaphat**. The enemy armies “advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat” (Joel 3:2,12). Note that Zechariah 12:2-3,8-9; Zechariah 14:2-5,9,12 and Revelation 14:19-20 also seem to indicate that the main battle will be outside Jerusalem. See also Joel 2:31-32; Joel 3:1-2,9-16 & Revelation 19:11,15-21.

Note that **the Day of the LORD battle mentioned in Joel 3:1-2,9-16 is said to occur in the Valley of Jehoshaphat**. This valley is **near Jerusalem**, but the precise location is not completely clear. Unger’s Bible Dictionary says, “The Valley of Jehoshaphat is the name given to the valley situated between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives. From about the fourth century AD the Valley of Jehoshaphat has been identified with the Kidron.” **So probably it is another name for the Kidron Valley**, which is between the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives. **Alternately, it is a somewhat northerly extension of the Kidron Valley**, where a primarily Arab neighborhood called **Emek Yehoshaphat is located between Mount Scopus and the Herod Gate in the Old City walls**. **A third possibility** is that the Valley of Jehoshaphat is the **“great valley” that is formed by the splitting of the Mount of Olives when Christ returns to earth** onto the Mount of Olives, as recorded in Zechariah 14:3-5. In any case the Valley of Jehoshaphat is near or adjacent to Jerusalem.

The armies of all nations are gathered to attack Jerusalem. See Joel 3:2,9-16; Zephaniah 3:8; Zechariah 12:2-3,9; Zechariah 14:2-4,12; Revelation 16:12-16 & Revelation 19:19.

These huge armies initially "staged" at Armageddon are probably those that **advance, attack and sack Jerusalem** as recorded in Zechariah 14:2.

Then Christ returns to earth at the Mount of Olives outside Jerusalem. **Initially he totally destroys the huge armies in and around Jerusalem, and in the adjacent Valley of Jehoshaphat**. See Joel 3:1-2,9-16; Zechariah 12:2-3,7-9; Zechariah 14:2-9,12-16; Revelation 14:14-20 & Revelation 19:11,15-21. And probably thereafter Christ also destroys the parts of the armies that remain at Armageddon and at other locations such as Edom (see Isaiah 34:1-12 and Isaiah 63:1-6).

“And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: **‘The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.’**” Romans 11:26-27

At this time **the Beast and the False Prophet are both captured and thrown into the Lake of Fire**. See Revelation 19:19-20.

Then will occur the **great winepress of God’s wrath** outside Jerusalem per Isaiah 63:2-6; Joel 3:13; Revelation 14:19-20 and Revelation 19:15.

Note that Revelation 19:21 indicates that Christ kills everyone in the armies who were gathered outside Jerusalem against Israel and against him.

After Christ returns from heaven to earth, several soon-after events occur as discussed in 4.6 through 4.12 below. However, **the exact sequence of these next events is uncertain**.

4.6 Satan Imprisoned for 1,000 Years

Right after Christ returns to earth and destroys the opposing armies in Revelation 19:19-21, in the next verse an angel **“seized the Dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss (Bottomless Pit), and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended.”** Revelation 20:1-3

4.7 Church Age Believers Accompany Christ at his Second Coming

As discussed in Section 2 above, Church Age Believers are bodily resurrected by Christ and taken to heaven at the Rapture. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 says we: **“Meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be**

with the Lord forever. Thus, presumably, to be with the Lord forever, **Church Age Believers will come with Christ from heaven to earth at the Second Coming of Christ.** This is supported by the following verses:

“Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you (Jesus’ disciples) the truth, **at the renewal of all things (i.e. the Second Coming),** when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, **you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones judging** the twelve tribes of Israel.’” Matthew 19:28

“Do you not know that **the saints (Church Age Believers) will judge the world?**” 1 Corinthians 6:2

“These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, **when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day.**” 2 Thessalonians 1:9-10 NASB

“If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, **we will also reign with him.**” 2 Timothy 2:11-12

“See, **the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones** to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly.” Jude 14-15

“**The armies of heaven were following him,** riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.” Revelation 19:14. Note the clothing of Church Age Believers in Revelation 19:7-8.

“I saw thrones on which were seated **those who had been given authority to judge.** Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. They will be priests of God and of Christ and **will reign with him for a thousand years.**” Revelation 20:4,6

Several passages indicate that **Christ returns to earth accompanied by others.** These others are variously termed “his elect” (Matthew 24:31 & Mark 13:27); “his holy ones” (Zechariah 14:5, 1 Thessalonians 3:13 & Jude 14); “saints” (1 Corinthians 6:2), “angels” (Matthew 25:31 & 2 Thessalonians 1:7), and “his army” (Joel 2:11 & Revelation 19:14). **These undoubtedly include Church Age Saints, as well as holy angels. Additionally, the souls of Old Testament Saints and the souls of Tribulation Saints** (those saints who die during the Tribulation) **may accompany Christ at his Second Coming to earth, to be re-united with their bodies, to become resurrected saints as discussed in 4.11 below.**

4.8 The Judgments Associated with the Second Coming of Christ

“They will sing before the LORD, for he comes, **he comes to judge the earth.** He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.” Psalm 96:13

“The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. **He will judge the nations,** heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth.” Psalm 110:5-6

“Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while **until his wrath (i.e. the Tribulation) has passed by.** See, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling to **punish the peoples of the earth for their sins.**” Isaiah 26:20-21

“**He has sent me to proclaim** the year of the LORD’s favor and **the day of vengeance of our God.**” Isaiah 61:1-2 & Luke 4:18-19

“See, **the LORD is coming** with fire. **For with fire and with his sword the LORD will execute judgment upon all men,** and many will be those slain by the LORD.” Isaiah 66:15-16

“Until the Ancient of Days came and **pronounced judgment** in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.” Daniel 7:22

“He (the Beast) will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints. The saints will be handed over to him for **a time, times and half a time. But the court (of judgment) will sit,** and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever.” Daniel 7:25-26

“But I tell you that **men will have to give account on the day of judgment** for every careless word they have spoken.” Matthew 12:36

“**The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed** in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, **his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat.** **Let both grow together until the harvest.** At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them into bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.” Matthew 13:24-25,30

“**The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.** The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and **the enemy who sows them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age,** and the harvesters are angels. As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all

who do evil. **They will throw them into the fiery furnace**, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **Then the righteous will shine like the sun** in the kingdom of their Father.” Matthew 13:37-43

“The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.

.... This is how it will be **at the end of the age**. The angels will come and **separate the wicked** from the righteous **and throw them into the fiery furnace**, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 13:47,49-50

“For **he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed**. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.” Acts 17:31

“Therefore, there is now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus**.” Romans 8:1

“For we will all stand before God’s **judgment seat**.” Romans 14:10

“Just as man is **destined to die once, and after that to face judgment**, **he (Christ) will appear a second time**, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.” Hebrews 9:27-28

“See, **the Lord is coming** with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to **judge everyone**, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.” Jude 14-15

“Behold, I am coming soon! **My reward is with me**, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.” Revelation 22:12, but also see Matthew 16:27. These indicate that the judgments associated with the Second Coming of Christ will include rewards for the righteous, similar to the rewards given to Church Age Believers at the Bema Seat Judgment (see 2.4 above) just after the Rapture.

The above scriptures indicate, in general terms, the judgments associated with the Second Coming of Christ. However, **these judgments include the following three more specific judgments**:

- 1) The Judgment of Living Israel (see 4.9 below),
- 2) The Sheep and Goats Judgment of Living Gentiles (see 4.10 below), and
- 3) The Judgment of the Resurrected Righteous Dead (see 4.12 below).

The final Great White Throne Judgment of the unrighteous dead occurs later, after the 1,000 year Millennium (see 6.4 below).

Note that **all judgments are judgments of individuals, not judgments of groups**.

The overall result of the judgments associated with the Second Coming of Christ is that all unbelievers die. Therefore, **only the righteous remain alive on earth**, either in physical bodies or in resurrected bodies, at the beginning of the Millennium. See 4.11 below. Pentecost on page 420 of his book *Things to Come* says; “**Scripture teaches that no unsaved person will enter the Millennium**. (John 3:3; Matthew 18:3; Jeremiah 31:33-34; Ezekiel 20:37-38; Zechariah 13:9; & Matthew 25:30,46).” See also Isaiah 1:24-28; Isaiah 60:12; Isaiah 65:11-12; Isaiah 66:15-16; Jeremiah 25:15-16,29-38; Jeremiah 30:23-24; Ezekiel 11:21; Daniel 7:21-22,27; Micah 5:9,15; Micah 7:16-17; Zephaniah 3:8-9; Zechariah 8:20-22; Zechariah 14:16; Malachi 3:2-3; Matthew 13:40-42,49-50 & Romans 11:26-27.

4.9 The Judgment of Living Israel

The Jews who have lived through the Tribulation will be judged, soon after the Second Coming of Christ. This judgment is recorded in Ezekiel 20:33-38 as follows:

“As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, **I will rule over you** (Israelites) with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath. **I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered**. I will bring you into the desert of the nations and there, face to face, **I will execute judgment upon you**. As I judged your fathers in the desert of the land of Egypt, so I will judge you, declares the Sovereign LORD. I will take note of you as you pass under my rod, and **I will bring you into the bond of the covenant**. **I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me**. Although I will bring them out of the land where they are living, yet they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.” Ezekiel 20:33-38

Walvoord in *Major Bible Themes* on page 346 says of these verses in Ezekiel: “On the basis of this text, **re-gathered Israel is divided into two classes** of people – **those who have accepted Jesus as their Messiah and Savior and are counted worthy to enter the kingdom**, and **those who are still rebels, unbelievers, and are excluded and put to death**.”

- “But **who can endure the day of his coming?** Who can stand when he appears? ... ‘**So I will come near to you (Israelites) for judgment.**” Malachi 3:2,5
- “Surely **the day is coming**; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings.” Malachi 4:1-2
- “Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you the truth, **at the renewal of all things (i.e. the Second Coming)**, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, **you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**” Matthew 19:28
- “**The bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet.** And the door was shut. **Later the others also came.** ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘**Open the door for us!**’ But he replied, ‘**I tell you the truth. I don’t know you.**” Matthew 25:10-12
- “Again, it will be **like a man going on a journey**, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. **After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.** ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! **Come and share your master’s happiness!**’ ‘You wicked, lazy servant! **Throw that worthless servant outside**, into the darkness, **where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**” Matthew 25:14,19,21,26,30
- “For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, ‘It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.’ In other words, **it is not the natural children who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring.**” Romans 9:6-8
- “And so **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: ‘The deliverer will come from Zion.’” Romans 11:26.
The judgment of living Israel results in the death of all unbelieving Israelites. Therefore, it will literally be true AFTER this judgment, that **every living Israelite going into the Millennium will be a believer saved by the grace of God**, thus validating Romans 11:26.

4.10 The Sheep and Goats Judgment of Living Gentiles

- “**When the Son of Man comes in his glory (the Second Coming)**, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. **All the nations (living Gentiles) will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another** as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right, and the goats on his left” Matthew 25:31-33
- This judgment occurs soon after Christ’s victorious return to earth. It is a **judgment of those Gentiles who came through, and are still living after Daniel’s Seventieth Week. They are judged on how they treated “the least of these brothers of mine (the Jews),”** per Matthew 25:40,45, especially during Daniel’s Seventieth Week when the Jews were being severely persecuted, even though it had then become clear to everyone that God claimed the Jews as his special people.
- The details of the actual Sheep and Goats Judgment by Jesus Christ are recorded in Matthew 25:34-46. The results are that **the righteous gentiles are given “eternal life”** (Matthew 25:46), **but those gentiles who are not righteous “will go away to eternal punishment”** (Matthew 25:46) in “the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41).
- Even though this judgment appears to be based on works (Matthew 25:35-36,42-43), this is not correct. The actions of the righteous gentiles in risking their lives by helping the persecuted Jews during the Tribulation is evidence of their saving faith in Jesus Christ. Thus, they too are saved by faith through grace, not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9). “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” James 2:17
- “I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse.” Genesis 12:3
- “**I will gather all nations (living gentiles) and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel**, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.” Joel 3:2
- “Let the nations be roused; let them advance into **the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations** on every side.” Joel 3:12
- “After he has **sent me against the nations that have plundered you – for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye – I will surely raise my hand against them.**” Zechariah 2:8-9

4.11 The First Resurrection – Of the Righteous Dead

- “**I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.** And after my skin has been destroyed, yet **in my flesh I will see God.**” Job 19:25-26

This quotation from Job indicates; 1) Jesus Christ will stand on earth in the end times, and 2) Job, and all other Old Testament saints, **will be bodily resurrected in the end times to see God**. This bodily resurrection will occur **after the Second Coming of Christ to earth**. This is reinforced in the following Job and Isaiah quotations which also indicates that Old Testament saints will be bodily resurrected after the Tribulation:

“If only you would **hide me in the grave** and conceal me **till your anger (NASB wrath, i.e. the Tribulation) has passed!** If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my hard service **I will wait for my renewal (NASB change, i.e. resurrection) to come.**” Job 14:13-14

“But **your dead will live; their bodies will rise.** Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; **hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath (i.e. the Tribulation) has passed by.** See, **the LORD is coming out of his dwelling (i.e. heaven) to punish the people of the earth for their sins. (i.e. at the Second Coming)**” Isaiah 26:19-21

The resurrection of the Old Testament righteous dead follows the Tribulation, as is also indicated in the following from Daniel:

“There will be a **time of distress (i.e. the Tribulation) such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.** **Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake (be resurrected):** some to everlasting life, others to everlasting contempt. **At the end of the days you will rise** to receive your allotted inheritance.” Daniel 12:1-2,13

See also Ezekiel 37:1-14 where **Ezekiel’s vision of dry bones** coming back to life is said, in verse 11, to be **the whole house of Israel (presumably only the righteous of Israel) being resurrected (at the Second Coming)** to live in the land of Israel. This scripture ends with: “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: **O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them;** I will bring you back to the land of Israel. **I will put my spirit in you and you will live,** and I will settle you in your own land.” Ezekiel 37:12,14

“I will ransom them from the power of the grave; **I will redeem them from death.**” Hosea 13:14

“You will be repaid at **the resurrection of the righteous.**” Luke 14:14

“Do not be amazed at this, for **a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out.**” John 5:28-29

“Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother shall rise again.’ Martha answered, ‘**I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day (i.e. the second Coming).**’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. **He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.**” John 11:23-24

“For as in Adam all die, so **in Christ all will be made alive (resurrected).** But each in his own turn; Christ, the firstfruits; then, **when he comes, those who belong to him.**” 1 Corinthians 15:22-23

“To attain to **the resurrection from the dead.**” Philippians 3:11

“**Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead.**” Hebrews 11:19

“So that they might **gain a better resurrection.**” Hebrews 11:35

“Blessed and holy are **those who have part in the first resurrection.** The second death has no power over them, but **they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.**” Revelation 20:6

This resurrection of the righteous dead includes not only the Old Testament saints (see above), **but also includes the resurrection of saints that die in the Tribulation,** as is indicated in the following:

“And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. **They had not worshipped the Beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.** (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) **This is the first resurrection.**” Revelation 20:4-5

In summary, **the bodily resurrection of the righteous dead includes three groups of saints:**

- 1) the **Church age saints** who are resurrected into heaven at the Rapture (see 2.2 above),
- 2) the **Old Testament saints** who are resurrected onto earth right after the Second Coming of Christ (see above in 4.11 and see also the bottom part of 4.7 above), and
- 3) the **Tribulation saints** who die during the Tribulation are also resurrected onto earth right after the Second Coming of Christ (see above in 4.11 and see also the bottom part of 4.7 above).

Refer also to Revelation 6:9-11 and Revelation 7:9,13-14.

These saints all receive “resurrection” bodies and together this is called the first resurrection. However, see the two qualifications below:

Church age saints include two groups as discussed in 2.2. The one group who are still alive at the time of the Rapture will have never died physically. Instead **their bodies are “changed” per I Corinthians 15:51-52 to become imperishable resurrection-type bodies.**

Tribulation saints who do not die physically during the Tribulation, **will presumably continue to live during the Millennium with physical, but not resurrected bodies.** They will live to an old age (Isaiah 65:20,22 & Zechariah 8:3-4), but may die during the Millennium (Isaiah 65:20). They bear children (Isaiah 65:23; Ezekiel 37:25 & Zechariah 8:5), but some of these children will be deceived by Satan at the end of the Millennium (Revelation 20:7-8). Those deceived are then killed by fire from heaven as described in Revelation 20:9. **In any case, all saints from the Millennium will presumably thereafter have “resurrection” bodies in the new heaven and the new earth,** where “There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away” per Revelation 21:1-4.

4.12 The Judgment of the Resurrected Righteous Dead

“Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.” Hebrews 9:27 This verse seems to indicate that ALL men face judgment after death. Therefore, **the righteous dead (Old Testament saints and Tribulation saints per 4.11 above),** who are resurrected at the Second Coming of Christ, **presumably also then undergo judgment.**

“**God will bring to judgment both the righteous and the wicked.**” Ecclesiastes 3:17

“**The LORD will execute judgment upon all men.**” Isaiah 66:16

“**Men will have to give account on the day of judgment** for every careless word they have spoken.” Matthew 12:36

“**See, the Lord is coming** with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones **to judge everyone.**” Jude 14-15

“Behold, I am coming soon! **My reward is with me,** and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.” Revelation 22:12, but also see Matthew 16:27. These indicate that the judgments associated with the Second Coming of Christ will include rewards for the righteous, similar to the rewards given to Church Age Believers at the Bema Seat Judgment (see 2.4 above) just after the Rapture.

Note that all the above in Section 4 **completes the prophecy of Daniel’s Seventy Week** found in Daniel 9:24-27.

5 The 1,000 Year Messianic Kingdom called The Millennium

5.1 Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel, Reigns in Jerusalem

The 1,000 year Millennial Kingdom is called messianic because it is headed by Jesus the Messiah of Israel as its King. Messiah is the Hebrew word that means the person who is “anointed” to be king. Christ is the Greek word that is equivalent to the Hebrew word Messiah. Therefore, Jesus the Messiah and Jesus Christ are equivalent titles, and **Jesus Christ is the King of the Messianic Kingdom of Israel.**

The 1,000 year long Millennium is established after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (see Section 4 above) when Jesus Christ returns from heaven, defeats all his enemies, resurrects the Righteous Dead, and judges all living people. *See Isaiah 9:7; Daniel 2:44; Daniel 7:14; Zechariah 9:10; Revelation 19:11-21 & Revelation 20:4-6.* Note that the overall result of the judgments associated with the Second Coming of Christ (see 4.8 above) is that **all unbelievers die.** See Isaiah 11:4. Therefore, **only the righteous remain alive on earth,** either in physical bodies or in resurrected bodies, at the beginning of the Millennium. Pentecost on page 420 of his book *Things to Come* says; “**Scripture teaches that no unsaved person will enter the Millennium.** (John 3:3; Matthew 18:3; Jeremiah 31:33-34; Ezekiel 20:37-38; Zechariah 13:9; & Matthew 25:30,46).”

Jesus Christ will rule on earth with absolute power, justice and righteousness, and bring about worldwide enforced peace. *See Psalm 72:2,4,11; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 11:4-5; Isaiah 42:1,4 & Jeremiah 23:5-6.* Refer also to Psalm 2:8-9; Psalm 50:6; Psalm 96:13; Psalm 98:1-2; Isaiah 16:5; Isaiah 28:17; Isaiah 32:1; Isaiah 33:22; Isaiah 40:10; Isaiah 61:8 & Daniel 9:24.

Any outbreak of sin will be dealt with immediately. *See Psalm 72:4; Isaiah 11:4; Isaiah 29:20-21; Jeremiah 31:30 & Zechariah 14:17-19.*

Israel, as God's chosen people (see 1.1.2 above), **will become the most important people and nation on earth.** See *Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Isaiah 14:1-2; Isaiah 61:7-9; Joel 3:16 & Luke 1:32-33.* Refer also to *Genesis 17:8; Psalm 53:6 & Psalm 128:5-6.*

Jesus Christ will live and reign in Jerusalem as the glorious King of Israel, and indeed as King of all peoples and nations of the world. See *Psalm 2:6-9; Isaiah 2:2-4; Joel 3:17; Micah 4:1-3,7 & Zechariah 14:9,16-17.* Refer also to *Genesis 49:10; 2 Samuel 7:16; Psalm 50:2; Psalm 72:8; Psalm 110:2; Psalm 134:3; Psalm 135:21; Isaiah 9:7; Isaiah 11:9-10; Isaiah 24:23; Jeremiah 3:17; Jeremiah 31:6; Zechariah 2:10-12; Zechariah 8:3; Luke 1:31-33; John 12:13; Philippians 2:10-11 & Revelation 19:16.*

Jesus Christ will restore all things. See *Acts 3:20-21.*

5.2 Covenant Promises to Israel Fulfilled in the Millennium

The re-gathering of Israelites back to the land of Israel, which has already begun, **will continue and increase after the Second Coming and on into the Millennium.** This will be the fulfillment of prophecy. Perhaps ALL Israelites around the world will move to the land of Israel. See *Deuteronomy 30:2-6; Jeremiah 23:3-8; Jeremiah 31:8-9; Ezekiel 39:25-29 & Ezekiel 47:13 through Ezekiel 48:29.* Refer also to *Isaiah 11:10-12; Jeremiah 30:3; Jeremiah 33:7-9; Ezekiel 36:24; Ezekiel 37:21-25 & Amos 9:14-15.*

God made four unconditional covenants with his people Israel. These are 1) the Abrahamic Covenant per 5.3 below, 2) the Palestinian Covenant per 5.4 below, 3) the Davidic Covenant per 5.5 below, and 4) the New Covenant per 5.6 below. These are unconditional in that they are declarations that God makes, and that God will definitely fulfill in his timing, regardless of human response. **That is, unconditional covenants are promises of God that depend only upon God, not upon man.** These four unconditional covenants are eternal in nature; they never end; **and they will be completed and fulfilled in the Millennium.**

These four unconditional covenants were made with God's covenant people Israel per the following: **"The people of Israel.** Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, **the covenants,** the receiving of the law, the temple worship **and the promises.** Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen." *Romans 9:4-5*

And these covenants were NOT made with gentiles: "Remember that at that time you (gentiles basis verse 11) were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and **foreigners to the covenants of the promise,** without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ." *Ephesians 2:12-13*

5.3 Abrahamic Covenant Promises Fulfilled in the Millennium

The Abrahamic Covenant was made by God to Abraham. God said to Abraham "I will", thus making it unconditional. God said: **"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."** - *Genesis 12 2-3.* Additional aspects of God's covenant promises to Abraham are found in *Genesis 12:7; Genesis 13:14-16; Genesis 15:4-5; Genesis 17:2-8,19 & Genesis 22:17-18.* Altogether **God promised Abraham:**

1. God would make Abraham into a **great nation** – *Genesis 12:2*
2. God would **bless Abraham** – *Genesis 12:2 & Genesis 22:17*
3. God would make **Abraham's name great** – *Genesis 12:2*
4. God would make **Abraham to be a blessing** – *Genesis 12:2*
5. God would **bless those who bless Abraham,** and curse whoever curses Abraham – *Genesis 12:3*
6. **All peoples on earth would be blessed through Abraham** and through his offspring – *Genesis 12:3 & Genesis 22:18*
7. God would give to Abraham and his offspring **the land of Canaan** forever – *Genesis 12:7; Genesis 13:14-15 & Genesis 17:8*
8. The covenant would be **everlasting** – *Genesis 13:15 & Genesis 17:7-8,13,19.* See also *1 Chronicles 16:16-18.*

9. God would make **Abraham's offspring extremely numerous** – Genesis 13:16; Genesis 15:4-5; Genesis 17:2,6 & Genesis 22:17
10. God would make Abraham to be **the father of many nations** – Genesis 17:4-6
11. **Kings would come from Abraham** – Genesis 17:6
12. **God would be a God to Abraham and to his offspring** – Genesis 17:7-8
13. God would establish the covenant **with Isaac** whom Sarah would bear to Abraham – Genesis 17:19
14. Abraham's offspring would **possess the cities of his enemies** – Genesis 22:17

All of the above promises will be fulfilled in the Millennium. **Abraham's offspring** in 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13 & 14 above **refer specifically to Isaac, Jacob and the Israelites**. In this regard see Genesis 17:19, Exodus 32:13; 1 Chronicles 16:16-18 & Psalm 105:9-11. Refer to **1.1.4.1 above for some of the yet unfulfilled promises of the Abrahamic Covenant**.

5.4 Palestinian Covenant Promises Fulfilled in the Millennium

The Palestinian Covenant was made by God to the Israelites as they were about to enter the Promised Land. God knew that Israel would turn away from him. So **God allowed Israel to be punished by later being sent off their land**. Refer to Deuteronomy 29:24-28. **But God promised in Deuteronomy 30:1-9 that afterwards he would:**

1. **Bring Israel back to God** with all their hearts and souls – v 2
2. Restore Israel's **fortunes** – v 3
3. **Gather Israel from all the nations** where he had scattered them – v 3 & 4
4. Bring Israel **back to the land** that belonged to their fathers – v 4 & 5
5. Give Israel **possession of the Promised Land** – v 5
6. Make Israel **more prosperous** than their fathers – v 5 & 9
7. Make Israel **more numerous** than their fathers – v 5
8. **Circumcise Israel's hearts so that they would love God with all heart and soul** – v 6
9. **Judge Israel's enemies** – v 7
10. **Bless Israel** in the fruit of the womb, the young of their livestock and in the crops of their land – v 9
11. **Delight in them** – v 9

All of the above promises will be fulfilled in the Millennium. God said "I will," thus making **the covenant unconditional** (see Ezekiel 16:59-60), even though it will not be completed until the Second Coming of Christ and the Millennium. The Palestinian Covenant reaffirms to Israel their title deed to the Promised Land, and also shows that the Abrahamic Covenant would not be set aside by Israel's rebellion and sin. Refer to Isaiah 11:11-12; Jeremiah 23:3; Ezekiel 11:16-21; Ezekiel 20:34-38; Ezekiel 37:11-14,21-23; Amos 9:14-15 & Romans 11:26-27. Also, refer to **1.1.4.2 above for some of the yet unfulfilled promises of the Palestinian Covenant**.

5.5 Davidic Covenant Promises Fulfilled in the Millennium

The Davidic Covenant was made by God to King David concerning David's seed and the Messianic Kingdom. The Davidic Covenant is given in 2 Samuel 7:8-16 and 1 Chronicles 17:9-12,14. Additional aspects of God's Davidic Covenant promises are found in Psalm 89:3-4,28-29,34-36; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Hosea 3:5; Luke 1:30-33 and Acts 2:29-32. The Davidic Covenant has the following provisions:

1. **Israel is God's people** – 2 Samuel 7:10 and 1 Chronicles 17:9
2. God will plant Israel to dwell in **a home of their own** – 2 Samuel 7:10 and 1 Chronicles 17:9
3. Israel will **no longer be oppressed** by wicked people – 2 Samuel 7:10-11; 1 Chronicles 17:9 and Jeremiah 23:6
4. **God will establish David's house, line, throne and kingdom forever** – 2 Samuel 7:11-13,16; 1 Chronicles 17:10-12,14; Psalm 89:4,29,36; Jeremiah 23:5; Luke 1:30-33 and Acts 2:29-30

Again, God said "I will," thus making **the covenant unconditional**. God said it would **last forever** in 2 Samuel 7:13,16; 1 Chronicles 17:14; Psalm 89:4,29,34-36; Ezekiel 37:25 and Luke 1:33. The Davidic Covenant will be **fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom when Christ rules on earth over his kingdom**. Refer to **1.1.4.3 above for some of the yet unfulfilled promises of the Davidic Covenant**. Furthermore, the resurrected King **David will reign under Christ in the Millennium as**

a prince over the house of Israel as is indicated in Jeremiah 30:9; Ezekiel 34:23-24; Ezekiel 37:24-25; Ezekiel 45:16-17; Ezekiel 46:8-12 and Hosea 3:5. See also 5.7 below.

5.6 New Covenant Promises Fulfilled in the Millennium

The New Covenant was given by God as a replacement of the Old Covenant that had earlier been given by God to Moses. The New Covenant was specifically given to Israel, but it also applies to every church age believer and every believer thereafter. The New Covenant is given in Jeremiah 31:31-34, which is also quoted in Hebrews 8:8-13 and in Hebrews 10:16-17. See also Ezekiel 16:60,62; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Matthew 26:27-28; Mark 14:23-24; Luke 22:20; Romans 11:25-27; 1 Corinthians 11:25-26; 2 Corinthians 3:6-11; Ephesians 3:6; Hebrews 7:18-19,22; Hebrews 8:6-7; Hebrews 9:15; Hebrews 10:8-10,29 and Hebrews 12:24. The New Covenant has the following provisions:

1. The New Covenant was **future to the Old Testament** – Jeremiah 31:31,33; Ezekiel 16:60,62; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Luke 22:20; Romans 11:26-27; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Hebrews 8:8,10,13; Hebrews 9:15 and Hebrews 10:9,16
2. The New Covenant **supercedes the Old (Mosaic) Covenant** – Jeremiah 31:31-32; Ezekiel 16:59-60; 2 Corinthians 3:11; Hebrews 7:18-19,22; Hebrews 8:6-9,13; Hebrews 9:15 and Hebrews 10:8-10
3. The New Covenant **is a better covenant** – Jeremiah 31:32; 2 Corinthians 3:6-11; Hebrews 7:18-19,22; Hebrews 8:6-9,13; Hebrews 9:15; Hebrews 10:8-10 and Hebrews 12:24
4. **The Old (Mosaic) Covenant is obsolete and set aside** – 2 Corinthians 3:7-11; Hebrews 7:18-19; Hebrews 8:7,9,13 and Hebrews 10:8-10
5. **The New Covenant will be made with Israel at the time that “all Israel will be saved”**. That is, in the Millennium. – Jeremiah 31:31,33; Ezekiel 16:60,62; Romans 11:25-27 and Hebrews 8:8,10
6. The New Covenant **also now applies to all born again believers in Christ** from all nations – Matthew 26:27-28; Mark 14:23-24; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25-26; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 3:6; Hebrews 7:22; Hebrews 9:15; Hebrews 10:29 and Hebrews 12:22-24
7. **God puts his law in the believers’ minds and writes it in their hearts** – Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Hebrews 8:10 and Hebrews 10:16
8. The New Covenant is not about the letter of the law, **but about the Holy Spirit indwelling believers** – Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:26-27; 2 Corinthians 3:6-8; Hebrews 8:10 and Hebrews 10:16
9. **All will know the LORD** – Jeremiah 31:34; Ezekiel 16:62; Romans 11:26 and Hebrews 8:11
10. **Jesus brings the new covenant into effect** – Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25-26; Ephesians 3:6; Hebrews 7:22; Hebrews 8:6; Hebrews 9:15 and Hebrews 12:24
11. **God will forgive them and remember their sins no more** – Jeremiah 31:34; Matthew 26:28; Romans 11:27; Hebrews 8:12; Hebrews 9:15 and Hebrews 10:17
12. The New Covenant **is Jesus’ blood poured out for many for forgiveness of sins** – Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25; Hebrews 9:15; Hebrews 10:10,29 and Hebrews 12:24
13. Communion is **in remembrance of Jesus’ death for us** – Matthew 26:28; 1 Corinthians 11:25-26; Hebrews 9:15; Hebrews 10:29 and Hebrews 12:24
14. The New Covenant promises **an eternal inheritance** – Ezekiel 16:60; 2 Corinthians 3:11 and Hebrews 9:15

God said “I will,” thus making **the covenant unconditional**. It is eternal per 14 above. It’s fulfillment **began on the day of Pentecost** for all church age believers, **and will be completed in the Millennium when “all Israel will be saved”** per Romans 11:26-27. In summary, the New Covenant is made to Israel for future Millennial fulfillment, but all church age believers in Christ now enjoy these covenant blessings that Israel will later receive. That is, just as church age believers receive blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant (Galatians 3:14) by faith without being under or fulfilling that covenant, so **church age believers receive the blessings of the New Covenant**

without being under or fulfilling the New Covenant. Refer to 1.1.4.4 above for some of the yet unfulfilled promises of the New Covenant.

5.7 Jesus Christ Reigns over Israel in the Millennium

Jesus Christ will reign on earth as King. See *Psalm 2:6-9; Isaiah 9:7; Micah 4:1-3; Zechariah 14:16-17 & Luke 1:31-33*. Refer also to 5.1 above, and to *Isaiah 11:10-11; Isaiah 16:5; Isaiah 24:23; Daniel 2:44; Daniel 7:13-14 & Zechariah 9:10*.

Jesus Christ will live in Jerusalem (Zion). See *Isaiah 24:23; Jeremiah 3:17; Joel 3:17,21; Zechariah 2:4-5,10-12; & Zechariah 8:3*. Refer also to 5.1 above, and to *Psalm 2:6; Psalm 99:2; Isaiah 2:3; Isaiah 9:7; Isaiah 52:8; Jeremiah 31:6; Micah 4:1-2,7 & Zechariah 14:16-17*.

The 1,000 year millennial kingdom of Jesus Christ on earth, will thereafter be followed by the New Heaven and the New Earth, which is God's eternal kingdom centered in the New Jerusalem.

See *2 Samuel 7:16; Isaiah 9:7; Luke 1:33; Revelation 20:11 & Revelation 21:1-5*. Refer also to *Psalm 45:6; Psalm 89:4,35-37; Daniel 2:44; Daniel 4:3,34 & Daniel 7:14,27*.

Israel is God's chosen people. See *Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Jeremiah 32:37-38; Romans 9:4-5 & Romans 11:1-2,11,25-29*.

Israel will be re-gathered from all nations back to the land of Israel. See *Deuteronomy 30:1-5; Isaiah 11:11-12; Jeremiah 31:7-12,23; Ezekiel 20:34,40-42 & Zechariah 8:7-8*. Refer also to *Isaiah 14:1-2; Isaiah 35:10; Isaiah 56:8; Isaiah 60:4,9; Isaiah 66:20; Jeremiah 3:18; Jeremiah 23:3; Jeremiah 30:3; Jeremiah 32:37-38; Ezekiel 28:25; Ezekiel 36:8,12,24; Ezekiel 39:25-28; Amos 9:14-15; Micah 5:3 & Zephaniah 3:20*.

The divided nations of Judah and Israel will be re-united. See *Jeremiah 3:18; Ezekiel 20:40; Ezekiel 37:15-22 & Hosea 1:11*.

Israel will be the wife of God. See *Isaiah 54:5-8; Isaiah 62:5; Jeremiah 3:14 & Hosea 2:16*.

Israel will be spirit filled and holy. See *Isaiah 4:2-3; Isaiah 59:21; Ezekiel 36:25-27; Ezekiel 37:14 & Joel 2:28-29*. Refer also to *Isaiah 29:22-23; Isaiah 32:15; Isaiah 44:3; Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 11:19-20 & Ezekiel 39:29*.

Israel will be cleansed. See *Zechariah 13:1*.

Israel and Jerusalem will both have geological changes. See *Isaiah 40:4; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Joel 3:18; Micah 4:1 & Zechariah 14:4,8,10*. Refer also to *Isaiah 2:2*.

Jerusalem will be greatly enlarged in area. See *Ezekiel 48:8-22,30-35*.

The earth will have release from decay. See *Romans 8:19-22*.

The four unconditional covenants will be fulfilled. See 5.2 above.

The Millennial temple will exist. See *Isaiah 2:2-3; Isaiah 44:28; Isaiah 56:5,7; Ezekiel 40:1 through Ezekiel 48:35 & Micah 4:1*. Refer also to *Isaiah 60:7*. It is unknown whether the Millennial temple is different from (seems likely), or possibly the same as, the Tribulation temple that is mentioned in *Daniel 9:27; Daniel 12:11; Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 11:1-2* and possibly *Daniel 8:11-14*.

A sacrificial system and feasts will operate. See *Isaiah 56:7; Jeremiah 33:17-18; Ezekiel 40:38-46; Ezekiel 43:18-27 & Ezekiel 45:13-25*. Refer also to *Isaiah 60:7; Isaiah 66:20-21; Ezekiel 20:40-41; Ezekiel 42:13-14; Ezekiel 44:11,15-16,24,27-31; Ezekiel 46:1-24; Zechariah 8:19; Zechariah 14:16-21 & Malachi 3:3-4*.

Israel will worship God. See *Isaiah 12:1-6; Isaiah 25:1,9; Jeremiah 33:11; Ezekiel 20:40-42 & Ezekiel 46:3,9*. Refer also to *Isaiah 61:10*.

The Sabbath will be re-established. See *Isaiah 56:2,4,6; Isaiah 58:13-14; Ezekiel 44:24; Ezekiel 45:17 & Ezekiel 46:1,3-4,12*.

Israel will have joy and no fear. See *Isaiah 9:3; Jeremiah 23:3-6; Ezekiel 28:26; Zephaniah 3:14-17; & Malachi 4:2*. Refer also to *Psalm 89:16; Isaiah 12:3-6; Isaiah 25:9; Isaiah 32:18; Isaiah 35:10; Isaiah 42:10-12; Isaiah 52:8-9; Isaiah 55:12; Isaiah 61:3,7; Jeremiah 31:4,12-13; Micah 4:4; Micah 5:4 & Zechariah 10:7*.

Israel will be rebuilt. See *Isaiah 61:4; Jeremiah 31:4-9; Ezekiel 36:33-38 & Amos 9:14-15*.

Israel will have abundant rain and water. See *Isaiah 30:23-25; Isaiah 35:6-7; Ezekiel 34:26-27; Ezekiel 47:1-12 & Zechariah 14:8*. Refer also to *Isaiah 41:17-18; Isaiah 44:3; Jeremiah 31:12; Joel 2:23; Joel 3:18 & Zechariah 10:1*

Israel will be fruitful and prosperous. See *Deuteronomy 30:1-5,9; Isaiah 4:2; Isaiah 60:5-9,11,17; Ezekiel 36:11,29-30,35 & Joel 3:1,18*. Refer also to *Psalm 72:3,7,16; Isaiah 27:6; Isaiah 30:23;*

Isaiah 32:15; Isaiah 35:1-2; Isaiah 51:3; Isaiah 55:13; Jeremiah 23:3; Jeremiah 31:5,12,27-28; Ezekiel 34:26-27,29; Joel 2:22-24,26 & Amos 9:13-14.

The sun and the moon will be much brighter. See Isaiah 30:26.

Israel will have new boundaries and new land allocations for its twelve tribes. See *Ezekiel 47:13 through Ezekiel 48:35.*

The resurrected King David will serve as prince (or a lesser king) of Israel under King Jesus Christ. See *Jeremiah 30:9; Ezekiel 34:23-24; Ezekiel 37:24-25; Ezekiel 46:2-12,16-18 & Hosea 3:5.* Refer also to Isaiah 55:3-4 and Ezekiel 45:17,22-25.

Beside King David (see immediately above) Israel will also have other lesser rulers. See *Daniel 7:27; Matthew 25:19-23; Luke 19:15-19; Revelation 5:9-10; Revelation 20:4,6 and Revelation 22:3-5.* And they are **given authority to judge** per Isaiah 1:25-26 and Revelation 20:4.

Israel will have little illness and long life, but there will be death. See *Isaiah 33:24; Isaiah 35:5-6; Isaiah 65:20,22; Jeremiah 30:17 & Zechariah 8:4.*

Children will be born. See *Isaiah 65:23; Jeremiah 30:18-20; Ezekiel 37:25 & Zechariah 8:5.* Note that even though only saved, righteous people enter the Millennium (see 5.1 above), the children born during the Millennium **will include those who are not saved.** Those unsaved will undoubtedly be those who are deceived by Satan at the end of the Millennium **and are part of Satan's final rebellion.** See Revelation 20:7-9 and 6.1 below.

Animals will be peaceful. See *Isaiah 11:6-9; Isaiah 65:25 & Ezekiel 34:25.*

5.8 Jesus Christ Reigns over the Church in the Millennium

The true Church will live with Jesus Christ in Heaven during the Tribulation. See 2.2 above and also *Colossians 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 3:10 & Revelation 19:7-9.* Refer also to 1 Thessalonians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4,7.

The true Church will return to earth with Jesus Christ at His Second Coming. See 4.7 above. *Following the Rapture 1Thessalonians 4:17 says "And so we will be with the Lord forever."* See also *Joel 2:10-11; Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:31; Jude 14-15 & Revelation 19:11-16.* Refer also to Mark 13:27.

The true Church will live and reign with Jesus Christ on earth during the Millennium. See *Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30; 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 2:26; Revelation 3:21; Revelation 5:9-10; Revelation 20:4,6 & Revelation 22:3-5.* Also, **the true Church will be judges** per 1 Corinthians 6:2-3; Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30; and Revelation 20:4.

5.9 Jesus Christ Reigns over the Nations in the Millennium

Jesus Christ will have worldwide rule over all nations. See *Psalms 2:8-12; Psalm 72:8-11; Isaiah 2:4; Daniel 7:14; & Zechariah 14:9.* Refer also to Isaiah 11:10; Isaiah 42:1; Isaiah 60:12; Micah 5:15 & Zechariah 9:10.

Israel will be above the gentile nations. See *Genesis 12:2-3; Isaiah 14:1-2; Isaiah 49:19-23; Isaiah 60:14-16 & Zechariah 8:23.* Refer also to Isaiah 61:5-7.

Jesus Christ will judge the world with justice and righteousness. See *Psalms 9:7-8; Psalm 96:10,13; Isaiah 9:7; Isaiah 42:1-4 & Zechariah 2:8-9.* Refer also to Psalm 67:4; Psalm 72:1-2,7; Psalm 89:14,30-32; Psalm 99:4; Isaiah 1:26; Isaiah 2:4; Isaiah 11:3-5; Isaiah 16:5; Isaiah 32:1,17; Isaiah 33:5; Isaiah 51:5; Isaiah 61:11; Jeremiah 23:5; Micah 4:3; Zephaniah 3:19 & Luke 4:18.

Jesus Christ will bring worldwide peace. See *Isaiah 2:4; Ezekiel 28:25-26; Ezekiel 34:27-29; Micah 4:3-4 & Zechariah 9:8,10.* Refer also to Isaiah 32:17-18; Isaiah 55:12; Isaiah 60:17-18; Jeremiah 23:6; Hosea 2:18; Micah 5:4-5 & Zechariah 14:11.

Jesus Christ will instruct the nations and bring worldwide knowledge of God. See *Isaiah 2:3; Isaiah 11:9; Jeremiah 16:21; Micah 4:2 & Habakkuk 2:14.* Refer also to Jeremiah 31:34.

Gentiles will be converted. See *Isaiah 49:6; Isaiah 56:6-8; Jeremiah 16:19-21; Daniel 7:14 & Matthew 25:32-34.* Refer also to Jeremiah 3:17 & Micah 4:2.

Nations will visit Jerusalem to worship Jesus Christ. See *Psalms 86:9; Isaiah 2:2-3; Jeremiah 3:17; Micah 4:1-2 & Zechariah 8:20-22.* Refer also to Jeremiah 16:19-21; Daniel 7:14; Habakkuk 2:14 & Zechariah 14:16-17.

6 The Final Rebellion and other Events at the End of the Millennium

6.1 Satan is Released and then Leads a Final Rebellion

“He seized the Dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss (the Bottomless Pit), and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. **After that, he must be set free for a short time.**” Revelation 20:2-3

“**When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison** and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth – Gog and Magog – to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand of the seashore. **They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves.**” Revelation 20:7-9

6.2 The Rebellion is Crushed & Satan Thrown into the Lake of Fire

“**But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the Devil (Satan), who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur**, where the Beast and the False Prophet had been thrown (see Revelation 19:20). They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” Revelation 20:9-10

“Depart from me, you who are cursed, into **the eternal fire prepared for the Devil (Satan) and his angels.**” Matthew 25:41

“In regard to judgment, because **the prince of this world (Satan) now stands condemned.**” John 16:11

“**Then the end will come**, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father **after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.” 1 Corinthians 15:24-25

Note that **Satan’s fallen angels:**

1. Were hurled, along with Satan, from heaven to earth - Revelation 12:7-9.
2. Were presumably put, along with Satan, into the Abyss (the Bottomless Pit) for the 1,000 year Millennium – Revelation 20:1-3.
3. Were presumably part of Satan’s final rebellion – Revelation 20:7-9.
4. **Were presumably then judged and thrown into the Lake of Fire, along with Satan** – Revelation 20:9-10; Matthew 8:29, Matthew 25:41, Hebrews 10:27, 2 Peter 2:4 & Jude 6

6.3 The Last Resurrection – Of the Unsavd

Now is the time for the final eternal judgment. At this time, right after the Millennium, **all the righteous have already been bodily resurrected** as discussed in 4.11 above. But all the unsavd of all time are physically dead, including those killed in the final rebellion (see 6.1 & 6.2 above). **The unsavd, called the “dead” in Revelation 20:12-13, are now bodily resurrected for the final eternal judgment:**

“And I saw **the dead, great and small, standing before the throne**, and the books were opened. **The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them**, and each person was judged according to what he had done.” Revelation 20:12-13

“**Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.**” Daniel 12:2

“A time is coming when **all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out** – those who have done good will rise to live, and **those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.**” John 5:28-29

“**The rest of the dead (the unsavd) did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.**” Revelation 20:5

6.4 The Great White Throne Judgment of the Unsavd

“Then I saw a **great white throne and him who was seated on it.** Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. **And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne**, and books were opened. **Another book was opened, which is the book of life.** The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and **each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown**

- into the lake of fire.** The lake of fire is the second death. **If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**" Revelation 20:11-15
- Note that **the decisive factor** in the Great White Throne judgment is **whether a person's name is found written in the Book of Life**, which only includes those who are saved by faith. Since the "dead" are unsaved, **all appearing before the Great White Throne are all thrown into the lake of fire.** However, it may be that the severity of judgment in the lake of fire depends upon what he has done as recorded in the books.
- "God will bring to judgment both the righteous and the wicked."** Ecclesiastes 3:17
- "The LORD will execute judgment upon all men."** Isaiah 66:16
- "But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you."** Matthew 11:22
- "But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."** Matthew 11:24
- "But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment** for every careless word they have spoken." Matthew 12:36
- "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed** in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, **his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat. 'Let both grow until the harvest.** The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and **the enemy who sows them is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age**, and the harvesters are angels. As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. **They will throw them into the fiery furnace**, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 13:24-25,30,38-40,42
- "The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.** This is how it will be **at the end of the age.** The angels will come and **separate the wicked** from the righteous **and throw them into the fiery furnace**, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 13:47,49-50
- ".... thrown into eternal fire."** Matthew 18:8
- "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels.'"** Matthew 25:41
- "... to go into hell, where the fire never goes out.** be thrown into hell, where "their worm does not die, and **the fire is not quenched."** Mark 9:44,47-48
- "His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."** Luke 3:17
- "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows."** Luke 12:47-48
- "There is a judge for the one who rejects me** and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke **will condemn him at the last day."** John 12:48
- "For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed."** Acts 17:31
- "Then the end will come**, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father **after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **The last enemy to be destroyed is death."** 1 Corinthians 15:24-26
- "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment. He (Christ) will appear a second time**, not to bear sin, but **to bring salvation** to those who are waiting for him." Hebrews 9:27-28
- "See, the Lord is coming** with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones **to judge everyone"** Jude 14-15
- "And the Devil**, who deceived them, **was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur**, where the Beast and the False Prophet had been thrown. **They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."** Revelation 20:10
- "But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murders, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."** Revelation 21:8

6.5 God Destroys the Present Heavens and Earth by Fire

“By the same word **the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the day of judgment** (the Great White Throne judgment) and destruction of ungodly men. **The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way,** what kind of people ought you to be? That day will bring about **the destruction of the heavens by fire,** and the elements will melt in the heat.” 2 Peter 3:7,10-12

Note that this is the destruction of the present heavens and earth, without any harm to God’s people.

Then immediately following the above scripture **God’s purpose is given:** “But in keeping with his promise **we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,** the home of righteousness.” 2 Peter 3:13

“Then **I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.**” Revelation 21:1

“Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; **the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment.**” Isaiah 51:6

“In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. **They will perish,** but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and **they will be discarded.**” Psalm 102:25-26 and also Hebrews 1:10-12

“**Heaven and earth will pass away,** but my words will never pass away.” Matthew 24:35

“Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.’ The words ‘once more’ indicate **the removing of what can be shaken – that is, created things** – so that what cannot be shaken may remain.” Hebrews 12:26-27

“Then **I saw a Great White Throne** and him who was seated on it. **Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.**” Revelation 20:11 Basis this scripture, it is uncertain which of the two occurs first; the Great White Throne judgment (6.4), or the destruction of present heavens and earth by fire (6.5).

“**The old order of things has passed away.**” Revelation 21:4

The present heavens and earth are suffering decay, and will be replaced by a new heaven and a new earth that will not decay, as indicated by the following scripture: “**For the creation was subjected to frustration,** not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that **the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay** and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.” Romans 8:20-21

The destruction by fire and the passing away of the heavens and the earth at the end of the Millennium, does not mean that God’s saved people are harmed or destroyed. On the contrary, **God’s people will immediately be given a new and better home in the New Heaven, New Earth and New Jerusalem.** This is seen in Revelation 21:3 where it says: “**Now the dwelling of God is with men,** and he will live with them.” And it is seen in Isaiah 66:22 where it says: “**So will your name and descendants endure.**”

The destruction of the present heavens and earth **does not mean the end of God’s eternal kingdom.** **The eternal promises** of land (Genesis 13:15; Genesis 17:7-8 & 1 Chronicles 16:16-18), and of an eternal kingdom (2 Samuel 7:12-13,16; 1 Chronicles 17:11-14; Psalm 89:3-4 & Luke 1:30-33) **continue and extend** beyond the present heavens and earth **into the everlasting New Heavens, New Earth and New Jerusalem.** See Section 7 below.

The heavens that are destroyed by fire are presumably the atmosphere (the first heaven) and outer space (the second heaven), but not the abode of God (the third heaven per 2 Corinthians 12:2-4).

6.6 God Creates a New Heaven, a New Earth and a New Jerusalem

“Then **I saw a new heaven and a new earth,** for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,** prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no death or mourning or crying or pain, for the order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘**I am making everything new!**’” Revelation 21:1-5

“Behold, **I will create new heavens and a new earth.** The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.” Isaiah 65:17

“As **the new heavens and the new earth that I make** will endure before me,’ declares the LORD, ‘so will your name and descendants endure.’” Isaiah 66:22

“But you have come **to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.**” Hebrews 12:22

“But in keeping with his promise **we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,** the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, **since you are looking forward to this,** make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him” 2 Peter 3:13-14

“I will write on him the name of my God and **the name of the city of my God, the New Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven** from my God.” Revelation 3:12

“**I am making everything new.**” Revelation 21:5

“And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me **the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.**” Revelation 21:10

Note that Revelation 21:1-2 is the next verse after Revelation 20:12-15, which is the Great White Throne judgment. **So, it seems clear that God’s creation of the New Heaven, New Earth and New Jerusalem immediately follows the two preceding events: 1) the Great White Throne judgment and 2) the destruction of present heavens and earth. God’s saved people are somehow protected and translated from the present earth (which is to be destroyed by fire), to God’s new creation: the New Heaven, New Earth and New Jerusalem.** This is supported by Isaiah 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13-14 and Revelation 21:2-3 above.

7 Eternal Life in the New Heaven, New Earth and New Jerusalem

7.1 The New Heaven and the New Earth

The new heaven(s) and the new earth are only mentioned in Isaiah 65:17; Isaiah 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13 and Revelation 21:1.

The new heaven and the new earth:

Will be created by God. Isaiah 65:17 & Isaiah 66:22

Will be ruled by Jesus Christ forever. Isaiah 9:6-7; Ezekiel 37:25-28; Daniel 7:13-14; Luke 1:32-33 & Revelation 11:15.

Will endure before God (presumably forever). Isaiah 66:22

Will endure even as God’s name and God’s people will endure (presumably forever). Isaiah 66:22

Are promised by God. 2 Peter 3:13

Are looked forward to by God’s people. 2 Peter 3:13-14

Will be the home of righteousness. 2 Peter 3:13

Result because the first heaven and the first earth have passed away. Revelation 21:1

No longer has any sea. Revelation 21:1

Presumably are the “host” of the Holy City, the new Jerusalem. Revelation 21:1-2,10 & see 7.2 below.

Is the dwelling of God with men (believers). Revelation 21:3

Is the inheritance of those who overcome. Revelation 21:7

Has a great and high mountain. Revelation 21:10

Has no need for the sun or moon to give light because the glory of God gives light. Isaiah 60:19-20; Revelation 21:23,25 & Revelation 22:5. However, the moon may exist because there may still be “new moons” per Isaiah 66:22-23.

Will have nations and kings. Revelation 21:24-26 & Revelation 22:2

The exact nature of the new heaven and the new earth is not known, other than the descriptions above, plus the description of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem in 7.2 below. However, **there may not be any heavenly bodies** in the new heaven basis Isaiah 60:19-20; Revelation 21:23,25 and Revelation 22:5.

7.2 The Holy City, the New Jerusalem

“Then **I saw a new heaven and a new earth,** for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of**

heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them.'" Revelation 21:1-3

The Holy City, the new Jerusalem, is mentioned in Isaiah 65:18-19; Hebrews 11:10,16; Hebrews 12:22; Revelation 3:12; Revelation 21:1 through Revelation 22:6 and Revelation 22:14,17,19.

The Holy City, the new Jerusalem is apparently within, and part of, the new heaven and the new earth (see 7.1 above), and has this description:

Will be the location of the throne of God the Father and of God the Son (the Lamb). Revelation 21:2-3,22-23 & Revelation 22:1,3

Will be created by God. Isaiah 65:18 Note - This verse is undoubtedly a reference to the new Jerusalem because it immediately follows Isaiah 65:17 which speaks of the new heavens and the new earth.

Will be a delight. Isaiah 65:18

Will be a joy to God's people, and they will be glad and rejoice. Isaiah 65:18

God will rejoice over it. Isaiah 65:19

God will take delight in his people there. Isaiah 65:19

Will not have the sound of weeping or crying. Isaiah 65:19 & Revelation 21:4

Abraham was looking forward to it. Hebrews 11:10

Is also called Mount Zion, the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God per Hebrews 12:22. Note – It appears that the heavenly Jerusalem initially is in the third heaven (see 2 Corinthians 12:2-4), and later (per Revelation 3:12 and Revelation 21:1-2,10) comes down out of heaven from God as the new Jerusalem after the new heaven and the new earth are created.

Has thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly. Hebrews 12:22

Comes down out of heaven from God. Revelation 3:12 & Revelation 21:2,10

Prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. Revelation 21:2

Is the dwelling of God with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. Revelation 21:3,22

God will wipe away every tear from his peoples eyes. Isaiah 65:19 & Revelation 21:4

There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Isaiah 65:19; 1 Corinthians 15:26 & Revelation 21:4

Will be part of God's making everything new. Revelation 21:5

Will have the spring of the water of life. Revelation 21:6 & Revelation 22:1,14,17

Will be inherited by those who overcome. Revelation 21:7 & Revelation 22:14

Shines with the glory of God. Revelation 21:11,23 & Revelation 22:5

Is brilliant like that of a very precious jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. Revelation 21:11

Has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. Revelation 21:12

Has the names of the twelve tribes of Israel written on the twelve gates. Revelation 21:12

Has three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. Revelation 21:13

Has twelve foundations for the wall of the city, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Revelation 21:14

Is laid out as a square. Revelation 21:16

Is very large, measuring 1,500 miles long and 1,500 miles wide. Revelation 21:16 NASB

May also be 1,500 miles high. Revelation 21:16

Its wall is about 200 feet thick. Revelation 21:17

Its wall is made of jasper. Revelation 21:18

The city is made of pure gold as pure as glass. Revelation 21:18

The twelve wall foundations were decorated with twelve types of precious stone. Revelation 21:14,19-20

The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. Revelation 21:21

The great street of the city was of pure gold, like translucent glass. Revelation 21:21 & Revelation 22:1-2

The city does NOT have a temple, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. Revelation 21:22

The Lord God Almighty (God the Father) and the Lamb (God the Son) live in the city. Revelation 21:3,22-23 & Revelation 22:1,3

The city does not need the sun or the moon, or a lamp, to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. Isaiah 60:19-20; Revelation 21:23,25 & Revelation 22:5

Nations will walk by its light. Revelation 21:24

Kings of the nations of the earth will bring their splendor, glory and honor into the city.

Revelation 21:24,26

On no day will the gates of the city ever be shut. Revelation 21:25

There will still be days there. Isaiah 60:19-20 & Revelation 21:25

There will be no night there. Revelation 21:25 & Revelation 22:5

Nothing impure will ever enter the city, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful. Revelation 21:27

Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life will enter the city. Revelation 21:27

The city has the throne of God and of the Lamb. Revelation 21:5 & Revelation 22:1,3

The river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. Revelation 22:1-2,17

On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Revelation 22:2,14,19

"Then the end (eternal life) will come, when he (Christ) hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power." 1 Corinthians 15:24

No longer will there be any curse. Revelation 22:3

God's servants will serve him, they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

Revelation 22:3-4

God and the Lamb will reign for ever and ever. Revelation 22:3,5

Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Revelation 22:14. See also Revelation 2:7.

The location of the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, is uncertain. However, it appears to come down from heaven to be on the new earth. This is basis it having a high wall with gates (Revelation 21:12), nations walk by its light and kings bring their splendor, glory and honor into the city (Revelation 21:24,26 & Revelation 22:2), and those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life may enter the city (Revelation 21:27 & Revelation 22:14).