

WHAT WE CAN KNOW ABOUT THE END TIMES



THE NEXT PROPHECY TO BE FULFILLED . . .

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

- God alone knows the time of this event (*The Rapture*)
- **The dead in Christ:** Their transformed body will be reunited with their spirit in the presence of the Lord
- **Those alive in Christ:** They will be caught up and transformed to meet the Lord in the air
- For those *with* Christ, the next 7 years will include the Judgment Seat of Christ and the marriage supper of the Lamb – times of celebration & reward - but *not* so back on earth.
- **Action to take NOW:** Be READY (**Luke 12:40**)

DURING THOSE NEXT 7 YEARS ON EARTH . . .

- Event #2: Christ is challenged with the rise of the Antichrist
- Event #3: Christ troubles the nations and Israel
- Event #4: Christ comes to rescue and judge Israel, and to judge the nations

SEVEN YEARS LIKE NONE OTHERS

THE NEW REALITIES

- World-wide chaos, in part because of the political and economic climate and in part because of the rapture.
- The absence of the salt and light elements of the followers of Christ.
- The influence of evil in this world will increase exponentially.

THE RISE OF THE ANTICHRIST (Revelation 13)

The Antichrist is Satan's counterfeit. As Jesus Christ was sent by the Father, so this false christ will be sent by Satan.

He will be revealed after the return of Christ in the air and before the second coming of Christ to earth. (**2 Thessalonians 2**)

- He will be a dynamic deceiver, coming as a man of peace, even getting Israel to sign a false peace treaty.

- An arrogant blasphemer - Putting himself above everything and everyone that represents God.
- A diabolical Satanist - He will be empowered by Satan, including being raised after apparently being dead.
- Unspeakably hateful and cruel - Persecuting and executing multitudes during his reign.
- Grossly immoral - Going against everything that God would classify as *right* for man.
- Known by the number 666 - Dr. John Walvoord writes: *"Probably the simplest explanation here is the best... Six in the Scripture is man's number. Whatever may be the deeper meaning of this number, it implies that this title referring to the first beast, Satan's masterpiece, limits him to man's level, which is far short of the deity of Jesus Christ."*
- He **will** be defeated - (**See Scriptures later**)

THE TRIBULATIONS

- Two sections of the Scripture describe mankind's suffering:
 - **Matthew 24**
 - **Revelation 6-16**
- Among the Gentiles – The sufferings will be horrible, yet the majority will not repent (**Revelation 16:10-11**)
Note: Thankfully, many *will* (**Revelation 7:9-10**)
- Among the Jews – The Jews will be the hardest hit by the terror of these awful days.
 - Zechariah predicted that two-thirds of all Jews on earth will die during the tribulation. (**Zech. 13:7-9**)
 - But their suffering will bring Israel to repentance (**Ezequiel 36:24-28**)

THE RETURN OF CHRIST TO EARTH

- The Antichrist's hatred of God will focus on the Jews.
- Those opposed to him will also hate the Jews and will seek to destroy them.
- All the nations will be drawn together for a final battle on the plains of Megiddo – the battle of Armageddon.

Revelation 19:11-21

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

Be light Be informed Be discerning
 Be cautious Be confident
 Be witnesses Be Ready



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