

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2

¹ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.

² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

Deuteronomy 32:35

Vengeance is Mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.'

Zephaniah 2:1-2

¹ Gather together, yes, gather, O shameless nation,

² before the decree takes effect—before the day passes away like chaff—before there comes upon you the burning anger of the Lord, before there comes upon you the day of the anger of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Revelation 3:10

Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

Revelation 14:7

And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Daniel 12:1

At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

Zephaniah 1:15-16

¹⁵ A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,

¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

Matthew 24:21-22

²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

²² And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake

of the elect those days will be cut short.

Revelation 6:2-17; 8:8-13; 9:1-20; 16:1-21

² And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

³ When he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature say, "Come!"

⁴ And out came another horse, bright red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so that people should slay one another, and he was given a great sword.

⁵ When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a black horse! And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand.

⁶ And I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures, saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!"

⁷ When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!"

⁸ And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God and for the witness they had borne.

¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

¹² When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,

¹³ and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.

¹⁴ The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,

¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,

¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

^{8:8} The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood.

⁹ A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

¹⁰ The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.

¹¹ The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many

people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.

¹² The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.

¹³ Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!"

^{9:1} And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit.

² He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft.

³ Then from the smoke came locusts on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth.

⁴ They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those people who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

⁵ They were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings someone.

⁶ And in those days, people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them.

⁷ In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold; their faces were like human faces,

⁸ their hair like women's hair, and their teeth like lions' teeth;

⁹ they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle.

¹⁰ They have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt people for five months is in their tails.

¹¹ They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

¹² The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.

¹³ Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God,

¹⁴ saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

¹⁵ So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day, the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of mankind.

¹⁶ The number of mounted troops was twice ten thousand times ten thousand; I heard their number.

¹⁷ And this is how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them: they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads, and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths.

¹⁸ By these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths.

¹⁹ For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them they wound.

²⁰ The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk,

^{16:1} Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."

² So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

³ The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.

⁴ The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.

⁵ And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, "Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for You brought these judgments.

⁶ For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!"

⁷ And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are Your judgments!"

⁸ The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire.

⁹ They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the Name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give Him glory.

¹⁰ The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish

¹¹ and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

¹² The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east.

¹³ And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs.

¹⁴ For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

¹⁵ ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!")

¹⁶ And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

¹⁷ The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"

¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.

¹⁹ The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.

²⁰ And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found.

²¹ And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

Revelation 13:1-18

¹ And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.

² And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.

³ One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast.

⁴ And they worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast, and who can fight against it?"

⁵ And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

⁶ It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven.

⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,

⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

⁹ If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

¹⁰ If anyone is to be taken captive, to captivity he goes; if anyone is to be slain with the sword, with the sword must he be slain. Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

¹¹ Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon.

¹² It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.

¹³ It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people,

¹⁴ and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

¹⁵ And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.

¹⁶ Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead,

¹⁷ so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.

¹⁸ This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.

Genesis 12:1-3; 15:5

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{15:5} And He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then He said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

Ezekiel 20:37-38

³⁷ I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.

³⁸ I will purge out the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me. I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord.

Deuteronomy 4:30-31

³⁰ When you are in tribulation, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, you will return to the Lord your God and obey His voice.

³¹ For the Lord your God is a merciful God. He will not leave you or destroy you or forget the covenant with your fathers that He swore to them.

Romans 11:26-27

²⁶ And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;

²⁷ “and this will be My covenant with them when I take away their sins.”

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Theologian N. T. Wright:

The biblical doctrine of God’s wrath is rooted in the doctrine of God as the good, wise, and loving creator, who hates – yes, hates, and hates implacably – anything that spoils, defaces, distorts, or damages His beautiful creation, and in particular anything that does that to His image-bearing creatures. If God does not hate racial prejudice, His is neither good nor loving. If God is not wrathful at child abuse (abortion), He is neither good nor loving. If God is not utterly determined to root out from His creation, in an act of proper wrath and judgment, the arrogance that allows people to exploit, bomb, bully, and enslave one another, He is neither loving, nor good, nor wise.

Nahum 1:2-3

² The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord is avenging and wrathful; the Lord takes vengeance on His adversaries and keeps wrath for His enemies.

³ The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet.

James 4:4

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Billy Graham:

We are like people under sentence of death, waiting for the date to be set. We sense that something is about to happen. We know that things cannot go on as they are. History has reached an impasse. We are now on a collision course. Something is about to give.

Revelation 7:2-4

² Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea,

³ saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads."

⁴ And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

Revelation 7:9, 13-14

⁹ After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

¹³ Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?"

¹⁴ I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 11:3

And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.

Deuteronomy 34:10-12

¹⁰ And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face,

¹¹ none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the Lord sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land,

¹² and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Revelation 11:11-12

¹¹ But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.

¹² Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

Revelation 14:6-7

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.

⁷ And he said with a loud voice, "Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come, and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Henry Morris

Millions upon millions of copies of the Bible and Bible portions have been published in all major languages, and distributed throughout the world.... Removal of believer from the world at the rapture will not remove the Scriptures, and multitudes will no doubt be constrained to read the Bible.... Thus, multitudes will turn to their Creator and Savior in those days, and will be willing to give their testimony for the Word of God and even.... their lives as they seek to persuade the world that the calamities it is suffering are judgments from the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:8

Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

Revelation 6:9-12

⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God and for the witness they had borne.

¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

¹² When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood.

Revelation 20:4

Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also, I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the Word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Hebrews 9:27-28

²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of His mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of His coming.

⁹ The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders,

¹⁰ and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false,

¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Revelation 14:9-11

⁹ And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,

¹⁰ he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of His anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

2 Corinthians 6:2

For He says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

The English word "imminent" means "hanging over one's head, ready to befall or overtake one; close at hand in its incidence." Thus, an imminent event is one that is always hanging overhead, is constantly ready to befall or overtake a person, is always close at hand in the sense that it could happen at any moment.

A.T. Pierson

"Imminence is the combination of two conditions... certainty and uncertainty. An imminent event is one which is certain to occur at some time, uncertain at what time. Imminent is not synonymous with impending. It is not exact to say what is imminent is near at hand; it may or may not be."

John 14:1-3

¹ "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me.

² In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

⁴ But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

⁵ For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.

⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.

⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and

love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him.

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Revelation 1:1-2

¹ The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to His servant John,
² who bore witness to the Word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

Luke 21:28

Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

Romans 8:23

And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

1 Corinthians 1:7

So that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
²¹ Who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself.

1 Thessalonians 5:2

For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,
¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,
¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,

²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

James 5:8-9

⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

1 Peter 4:7

The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

Revelation 22:6-7, 12, 20

⁶ And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent His angel to show His servants what must **soon** take place."

⁷ "And behold, I am coming **soon**. Blessed is the one who keeps the Words of the prophecy of this book."

¹² "Behold, I am coming **soon**, bringing My recompense with Me, to repay each one for what he has done.

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming **soon**." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Matthew 5:18

For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Pronouns – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

^{4:13} But **we** do not want **you** to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that **you** may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

¹⁴ For since **we** believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁵ For this **we** declare to **you** by a word from the Lord, that **we** who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then **we** who are alive, **who** are left, will be caught up together with **them** in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so **we** will always be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

^{5:1} Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, **you** have no need to have anything written to **you**.

² For **you** yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

³ While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon **them** as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and **they** will not escape.

⁴ But **you** are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise **you** like a thief.

⁵ For **you** are all children of light, children of the day. **We** are not of the night or of the darkness.

⁶ So then let **us** not sleep, as others do, but let **us** keep awake and be sober.

⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.

⁸ But since **we** belong to the day, let **us** be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

⁹ For God has not destined **us** for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

¹⁰ who died for **us** so that whether **we** are awake or asleep **we** might live with Him.

¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as **you** are doing.

Parables – Matthew 24:43-44 (Unexpected Thief)

⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Matthew 24:45-51 (Two Servants)

⁴⁵ “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time?”

⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

⁴⁷ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

⁴⁸ But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’

⁴⁹ and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards,

⁵⁰ the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know

⁵¹ and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:1-13 (Wise & Foolish Virgins)

¹ “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.

² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,

⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.

⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.

⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’

⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.

⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to

the dealers and buy for yourselves.’

¹⁰ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.

¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’

¹² But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’

¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Luke 12:37

Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them.

Revelation 1:1-3

¹ The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending His angel to His servant John,

² who bore witness to the Word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the Words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

God’s Perspective – 2 Peter 3

¹ This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder,

² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles,

³ knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires.

⁴ They will say, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.”

⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the Word of God,

⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished.

⁷ But by the same Word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. (See Psalm 90:4)

⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,

¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

¹³ But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,

¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.

¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability.

¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Psalm 90:4

For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

Doug Moo

God views the passing of time from a different perspective than we do. We are impatient, getting disturbed and upset by even a short delay; God is patient, willing to let centuries even millennia go by as He works out His purposes. Peter is not telling his readers that they are wrong to believe that Christ's return is "imminent". What he is telling them is that they are wrong to be impatient when it does not come as quickly as they might like or hope.

God's Patience – 2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Joel 2:12-14

¹² "Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster.

¹⁴ Who knows whether He will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God?

Romans 2:4

Or do you presume on the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

John Piper

Since our God is immortal, does not age, does not forget, sees all history at a glance and is

never bored, He clearly does not experience time like we do... Don't fail to recognize this. It is no argument against Christ's second coming that almost 2,000 years have passed since His departure. From God's experience of time, it is as though Christ just arrived at His right hand the day before yesterday.

James Shaddix

Instead of casting doubt on His promise, God's seeming delay actually highlights His heart! His waiting isn't due to His impotence, but to His mercy.

God's Preference – Ezekiel 18:23

Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?

Proverbs 11:8

The righteous is delivered from trouble, and the wicked walks into it instead.

Psalms 144:5-7

⁵ Bow Your heavens, O Lord, and come down! Touch the mountains so that they smoke!

⁶ Flash forth the lightning and scatter them; send out Your arrows and rout them!

⁷ Stretch out Your hand from on high; rescue me and deliver me from the many waters, from the hand of foreigners,

⁸ whose mouths speak lies and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Luke 17:26-30

²⁶ Just as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of Man.

²⁷ They were eating and drinking and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

²⁸ Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot—they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building,

²⁹ but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all—

³⁰ so will it be on the day when the Son of Man is revealed.

Genesis 5:21-31

²¹ When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah.

²² Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters.

²³ Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years.

²⁴ Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

²⁵ When Methuselah had lived 187 years, he fathered Lamech.

²⁶ Methuselah lived after he fathered Lamech 782 years and had other sons and daughters.

²⁷ Thus all the days of Methuselah were 969 years, and he died.

²⁸ When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son

²⁹ and called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the Lord has cursed, this one shall bring us relief from our work and from the painful toil of our hands."

³⁰ Lamech lived after he fathered Noah 595 years and had other sons and daughters.

³¹ Thus all the days of Lamech were 777 years, and he died.

Jude 14-15

¹⁴ It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His holy ones,

¹⁵ to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

Brodie Hodge

If you match up the ages of the patriarchs, Methuselah died the same year as the Flood... Methuselah was raised by a godly parent, Enoch, who walked with God and pleased God so that God took him away without death. In fact, Methuselah may have actually helped Noah in the construction phase of the Ark. But his death preceded the Flood.

Genesis 19:15-16

¹⁵ As morning dawned, the angels urged Lot, saying, "Up! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, lest you be swept away in the punishment of the city."

¹⁶ But he lingered. So the men seized him and his wife and his two daughters by the hand, the Lord being merciful to him, and they brought him out and set him outside the city.

Dr. W.A. Criswell

Both of these men, Enoch and Lot, are very typical of God's people in the earth nos. Enoch – glorious man who walked with God and was not, for God took him – Enoch was raptured, he was taken out before the judgment of the Flood came... Lot was taken out also before the great judgment day of God cam... All of God's people... will be taken out before that awful day comes.

2 Peter 2:4-10

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

⁵ if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly;

⁶ if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;

⁷ and if He rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the wicked

⁸ (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard);

⁹ then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment,

¹⁰ and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.

1 Timothy 4:10

For to this end, we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation He will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Psalms 18:19

He brought me out into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me.

Psalms 34:4, 6-8, 17, 19-22

⁴ I sought the Lord, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

⁶ This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

⁸ Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

¹⁶ The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

¹⁷ When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

²¹ Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

²² The Lord redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

Revelation 3:10

Because you have kept My Word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.

Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Revelation 12:5

She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne.

Revelation 16:14

For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole

world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

Charles Ryrie

That this promise concerns the church's relation to the tribulation period is almost never debated. The reason is in the verse itself. This time of trial 'that is coming on the whole world'. It is worldwide, and on this inhabited earth; that is on its people. It had not happened up to that time, for it was still in the future – 'that is coming'. It is not a promise restricted to the church at Philadelphia in the first century any more than favorite promises like Philippians 4:13 or 4:19 or 1 Corinthians 10:13 were limited to the churches in the first century. Also, the risen Lord said in all seven letters in Revelation 2 and 3 that all the churches should heed what He said.

*"Not **during** the trial or **in** the trial or **through** the trial, but **from** the trial."*

Notice that during the Tribulation Period, 7 years, the ruthless government of the Antichrist will search out those who refuse his mark and slaughter them in terrible ways.

Revelation 6:9-11

⁹ When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the Word of God and for the witness they had borne.

¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before You will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

¹¹ Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

Revelation 11:7

And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them.

Revelation 12:11

And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

Revelation 13:7-8, 15

⁷ Also, it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,

⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

¹⁵ And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain.

Revelation 14:13

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

Revelation 17:6

And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.

Revelation 18:24

And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth.

The correct interpretation of Revelation 3:10 is centered on one simple word. In the Greek language, it has just two letters: **ek**, which are translated “**from**” in Revelation 3:10. This preposition is found over 800 times in the New Testament, and it’s translated “**out of**” or “**from**” (or an equivalent phrase with the same meaning) in virtually every instance. Here is the context:

Ek is rendered **out of** hundreds of times.

Matthew 2:15

And remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “**Out of** Egypt I called My Son.”

Matthew 7:5

You hypocrite, first take the log **out of** your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck **out of** your brother’s eye.

Matthew 15:19

For **out of** the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.

Matthew 27:52-53

⁵² The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised,

⁵³ and coming **out of** the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Revelation 3:16

So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you **out of** my mouth.

John 15:18

If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you.

John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

2 Timothy 3:12

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

James 1:2

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds.

1 Peter 4:12

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:9

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God.

Dr. John F. Walvoord

Paul is expressly saying that our appointment is to be caught up to be with Christ; the appointment of the world is for the Day of the Lord, the day of wrath. One cannot keep both of these appointments.

God's Framework For The Book of Revelation – Revelation 1:19

Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

The things you have seen – John's incredible vision of Jesus in chapter 1.

The things which are – Revelation 2-3, seven letters to seven churches.

The things which will take place after this – Revelation 4-22.

The word **church** appears 19 times in chapters 1-3 and never in chapters 4-18.

Revelation 4:1

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

Dr. Richard Mayhue

It is remarkable and totally unexpected that John would shift from detailed instructions for the church to absolute silence about the church... if in fact, the church continued into the tribulation. If the church will experience the tribulation... then surely the most detailed study of tribulation events would include an account of the church's role. But it doesn't!

Summary

The church is on earth in Revelation 1-3, then there is no record of anything being done by the church in chapters 4-18. From Acts chapter 2 until Revelation chapter 3, the church is the most important entity on earth in Scripture. From Romans chapter 1 until the last verse of Revelation chapter 3, the primary emphasis of the New Testament writers involves how we, as Christians on earth, should conduct ourselves. We are told about our morality, our theology, our faith, our behavior, and our mission. We are even instructed as how to act and react to the tribulations of life that we must endure. All these types of instructions stop at Revelation 4:1. If the church is to endure any part of the Tribulation Period, wouldn't a just and loving God give us some instruction as to how to endure?

There is not one specific instruction given to the church in Revelation 4-18!

Then all we have is total silence in respect to the church from Revelation chapter 4 until Revelation chapter 19. Evangelism which has been the church's command from God and sole responsibility is being carried out by 144,000 Jews. Everything centers around Israel. There is not one record of the Spirit saying anything to the church. Seven times the Spirit speaks expressly to the church in Revelation 2 and 3 then nothing ever again.

John MacArthur

It would be inconsistent for the Scriptures to be silent on such a traumatic change for the church. If any time of the Rapture other than the pretribulation were true, one would expect the Epistles to teach the fact of the church in the tribulation, the purpose of the church in the tribulation, the conduct of the church in the tribulation. However, there is no teaching like this whatsoever. Only a pretribulation Rapture satisfactorily explains such obvious silence.

Ezekiel 20:37-38

³⁷ I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.

³⁸ I will purge out the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against me. I will bring them out of the land where they sojourn, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord.

The Tribulation Period is a family matter between Israel and God. This is the product of God's wrath upon wickedness. The Book of Revelation clearly refers to God' wrath at least 7 times; *6:17-18; 14:8-10; 14:19; 15:7; 16:1, 19; 19:15.*

The purpose of the Tribulation is to execute God's wrath on those who reject Him.

When you depart from a literal, contextual interpretation of Scripture, as you have to do when you're trying to justify the other rapture positions, anything becomes possible. But there are two things all misinterpretations seem to have in common. One is their confusion about the difference between tribulation and the Great Tribulation and the other is the meaning and duration of the phrase "wrath of God."

Here are some examples of what I mean. In *John 16:33* Jesus said:

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

This verse is often used to refute the pre-tribulation belief that the church will not be present during the end times judgments. "After all," they say, "Jesus said we will have tribulation in this world."

Another is *1 Thessalonians 5:9-10* where Paul said:

⁹ For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him.

Here they say the wrath Paul was taking about is not the end times judgments associated with the Day of the Lord, which is the context of the passage, but the eternal punishment to be endured by non-believers. They say that's the only wrath our salvation protects us from.

So let's take a closer look at these two words as they pertain to the end times and see what the Bible says about them.

Tribulation

In English, the word "tribulation" appears 22 times in the Bible. Three of them are in the Old

Testament, although the Hebrew word from which it is translated can be found 105 times, having a number of different meanings. The other 19 are in the New Testament, but there are also 26 times where the Greek word is translated in different ways as well, for a total of 45. In both testaments the other meanings are similar; distress, affliction, trouble, etc.

The phrase “great tribulation” makes only three appearances, all in the New Testament, *Matthew 24:21*, *Revelation 2:22*; *7:14*.

In its first one the Lord actually coined the term, identifying its beginning as the time when the abomination of desolation occurs, *Matthew 24:15-21*:

¹⁵ “So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

¹⁷ Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house,

¹⁸ and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak.

¹⁹ And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days!

²⁰ Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.

²¹ For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.

A few verses later He said it would end just before the 2nd coming, *24:29-31*:

²⁹ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

³¹ And He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”

Daniel 9:27 tells us the anti-Christ will set up an abomination of desolation in the middle of the 70th Week, or 3½ years from its end. It’s the same event Jesus identified as the sign that the Great Tribulation will have begun. This tells us the Great Tribulation will have a duration of 3½ years.

And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.

Daniel also made reference to the Great Tribulation in *Daniel 12:1* when he wrote:

At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of Your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time Your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.

Notice that Daniel’s words are very similar to the ones Jesus used in *Matthew 24:21*. The phrase “at that time” refers back to *Daniel 11:36-45* where the angel was telling Daniel about the reign of the anti-Christ.

³⁶ And the king shall do as he wills. He shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is accomplished; for what is decreed shall be done.

³⁷ He shall pay no attention to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women. He shall not pay attention to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all.

³⁸ He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these. A god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly gifts.

³⁹ He shall deal with the strongest fortresses with the help of a foreign god. Those who acknowledge him he shall load with honor. He shall make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price.

⁴⁰ At the time of the end, the king of the south shall attack him, but the king of the north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and with many ships. And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through.

⁴¹ He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites.

⁴² He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.

⁴³ He shall become ruler of the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt, and the Libyans and the Cushites shall follow in his train.

⁴⁴ But news from the east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go out with great fury to destroy and devote many to destruction.

⁴⁵ And he shall pitch his palatial tents between the sea and the glorious holy mountain. Yet he shall come to his end, with none to help him.

For these reasons, it's safe to assume that Daniel and Jesus were talking about the same thing. In fact, Jesus confirmed this in *Matthew 24:15*.

Put together, these references identify the Great Tribulation as a specific period of time with an identifiable beginning and end. That makes this 3 ½ year period distinct from the periodic times of tribulation that believers experience in this world. Daniel and Jesus both said this time of tribulation would be the worst the world has ever seen. Jesus said it has never been equaled before and would never be equaled again, and if He didn't return to put an end to it no one would survive (*Matthew 24:22*). This is definitely not the everyday variety of tribulation you and I face in life. This is the one and only Great Tribulation.

Wrath

The word "wrath" also has a general as well as a specific meaning, and again the two are differentiated by time. When used in connection with God, the word "wrath" appears in 18 verses of the Old Testament and usually describes God's feelings toward Israel during their periodic times of disobedience.

In the New Testament there are 16 verses where wrath appears in connection with God. Some of them refer to the eternal destiny unbelievers will face after they die and others are about the end times judgments.

We can tell which is which by the context in which they are used. Here are some examples.

John 3:36:

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

In this verse the context is eternal life. Those who believe in the Son will receive it but those who reject Him will not receive it for God's wrath remains on them. There are only two possible dispositions for mankind, eternal life and eternal punishment. Belief in the Son brings life, and rejection of the Son brings punishment. Only one generation of mankind will experience the end times judgments, but this verse pertains to all mankind. Therefore, the Lord had to be using God's wrath in reference to eternal punishment here.

Now let's take the example we used earlier from *1 Thessalonians 5:9*:

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, Paul began chapter 5 by talking about the timing of the Day of the Lord. He said the world would not know the day or hour in advance, and that it would come like a thief in the night,

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3:

² For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

³ While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

By this we know Paul was not talking about the actual day of the Lord's return, because earlier we learned that He will come to put an end to the worst period of devastation the world has ever known, not while people are thinking peace has come. And from other passages we know that Daniel's 70th week will begin with a perception of peace in *Daniel 8:25* which will quickly be replaced by war.

By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand.

Therefore, Paul's reference to "peace and safety" points to the beginning of Daniel's 70th Week, not the actual day of the Lord's return.

He said believers should not be surprised by this, and changed his narrative from the third person (they) in verse 3 to the second person (you) in verse 4. He did this to distinguish between the unbelieving world, who will be surprised, and the believers, who won't. Being sons of the light (having the knowledge of Scripture) we will be able to see the signs of its approach, and when we do, we should be awake and alert. After expanding on that thought in verses 5-8, he came to verse 9:

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Obviously, believers will not suffer the eternal wrath of God that awaits unbelievers. But the context of *1 Thessalonians 5:1-9* is the Day of the Lord, when the end times judgments will fall upon an unbelieving and unsuspecting world. That's the wrath Paul was talking about.

So, just like we can differentiate between the periodic times of tribulation we all experience and the Great Tribulation which will be the single worst thing ever to happen on earth, we can also differentiate between the eternal wrath of God to be visited on all unbelievers after they die, and the time of God's wrath, the end time judgments that will come upon one generation of unbelievers before they die, and which will have a discernible beginning and end.

Is It Time Yet?

Now let's look at the time of God's wrath. *Isaiah 26:20-21*:

²⁰ Come, My people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves

for a little while until the fury has passed by.

²¹ For behold, the Lord is coming out from His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain.

Isaiah foresaw a time when God will pour out His wrath on earth for a period of time he describes as lasting “a little while.” Therefore, this passage is not about His eternal wrath against all unbelievers who have died, but is a specific period of time against one generation of unbelievers who will still be alive. And like Paul, he separated believers from unbelievers by changing from the second person (your rooms) to the third person (their sins).

The angel Gabriel gave Daniel similar information, in *Daniel 8:19*. Starting with an overview of the kings of Medo-Persia and Greece the angel quickly focused in on the days of the anti-Christ during the time of wrath at the end of the age – *Daniel 8:19-25*:

¹⁹ He said, “Behold, I will make known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation, for it refers to the appointed time of the end.

²⁰ As for the ram that you saw with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia.

²¹ And the goat is the king of Greece. And the great horn between his eyes is the first king.

²² As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose, four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power.

²³ And at the latter end of their kingdom, when the transgressors have reached their limit, a king of bold face, one who understands riddles, shall arise.

²⁴ His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints.

²⁵ By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken—but by no human hand.

These passages identify a specific period of time at the end of the age when God will visit His wrath upon the unbelieving world.

In the past many commentators have identified this period as being the time of the bowl judgments of *Revelation 15-16*. That’s because in *Revelation 16:1* these judgments are called “the seven bowls of God’s Wrath.” But the Bible does not say the time of God’s Wrath begins with these judgments. In fact, in *Revelation 15:1* we’re told that with the bowl judgments God’s wrath will end. If that gives us the ending point then where do they begin?

The answer can be found in *Revelation 6:15-17* where the kings of the earth realize that with the seal judgments the great day of God’s wrath has begun.

¹⁵ Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,

¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,

¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

Based on this, some people see a difference between the wrath of the Lamb, which only appears in *Revelation 6:16*, and the wrath of God. But the majority of English versions translate the Greek word “autos” in the plural, as happens over 300 times in the New Testament, and translate *Revelation 6:17* as “the great day of their wrath has come.” Since

both Father, and Son are in view in Revelation 6:16 and since the two are one this seems to fit the context better.

Also note the past perfect tense of the phrase “the great day of their wrath has come”. The past perfect tense is used to describe an action that has taken place at a specific time in the past. From the preceding judgments of Revelation 6 the kings of the earth will realize that they are already in the period known as the Wrath of God. Therefore, the time of God’s wrath begins with the seal judgments of Revelation 6 and ends with the bowl judgments of Revelation 16 and will occupy most, if not all, of Daniel’s 70th Week

Many commentators insist that God’s wrath is the worst part of a time they call the seven-year tribulation period, making God’s wrath synonymous with the Great Tribulation. But as we can see, it’s actually the other way around. The Great Tribulation is the worst part of the time of God’s wrath.

When Jesus spoke of the Great Tribulation in *Matthew 24:21* He was referring to the bowl judgments of *Revelation 16* because these are the only judgments that will take place in the second half of Daniel’s 70th Week, after the anti-Christ sets up the abomination of desolation (*Daniel 9:27*). The bowl judgments are the third and final series of judgments that God will execute upon the earth during the time of His wrath.

I cannot forget, the Bible clearly teaches that our salvation is a salvation **from** God’s wrath. Two verses in *1 Thessalonians* make this clear, *1:10; 5:9*:

1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5:9:

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by His blood, much more shall we be saved by Him from the wrath of God.

Dr. Tim LaHaye:

I simply cannot imagine the heavenly Bridegroom whispering to His chosen one: “Yes, My Bride, My precious one, I love you so much that I gave my life for you. I want to nourish and cherish you. I want to take you home with Me and celebrate our marriage with joy and singing and feasting. I want to be with you forever. But before I bring you home, I want you to experience seven years of the very fury of hell, and seven years of the terrible wrath of My Father. But try not to worry. I’ll come back when it’s all over.”

Rapture Passages	Second Coming Passages
John 14:1-3	Daniel 2:44-45; 7:9-14; 12:1-3
Romans 8:19	Zechariah 14:1-15
1 Corinthians 1:7-8; 15:51-53; 16:22	Matthew 13:41; 24:15-31; 26:64
Philippians 3:20-21	Mark 13:14-27; 14:62
Colossians 3:4	Luke 21:25-28
1 Thessalonians 1:10; 2:19; 4:13-18; 5:1-11, 23	Acts 1:9-11; 3:19-21
2 Thessalonians 2:1	1 Thessalonians 3:13
1 Timothy 6:14	2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; 2:8
2 Timothy 4:1	2 Peter 3:1-14

Titus 4:1	Jude 14-15
Hebrews 9:28	Revelation 1:7; 19:11-20:6; 22:7, 12, 20
James 5:7-9	
1 Peter 1:7, 13	
1 John 2:28-3:2	
Jude 21	
Revelation 2:25; 3:10	

Revelation 1:7

Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen.

Acts 1:10-11

¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,

¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven."

Zechariah 14:4

On that day His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

1 Thessalonians 4:17

Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

Matthew 24:40-42

⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left.

⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left.

⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

Revelation 19:11-15

¹¹ Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a Name written that no one knows but Himself.

¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the Name by which He is called is The Word of God.

¹⁴ And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following Him on white horses.

¹⁵ From His mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Matthew 25:1-13

- 1 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the Bridegroom.
- 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.
- 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them,
- 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps.
- 5 As the Bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.
- 6 But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the Bridegroom! Come out to meet Him.’
- 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps.
- 8 And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’
- 9 But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’
- 10 And while they were going to buy, the Bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with Him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.
- 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us.’ 12 But He answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’
- 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

<i>The Rapture</i>	<i>The Return</i>
Jesus will meet believers in the air.	Jesus will return to the Mount of Olives.
Only believers see Jesus.	All humanity will see Jesus.
Raptured believers taken to heaven.	Raptured believers return with Jesus.
Could happen anytime.	Happens at end of the Tribulation.
No signs preceding it.	Many signs preceding it.
Not mentioned in the Old Testament.	Predicted often in the Old Testament.
Time of joy for believers.	Time of mourning for unbelievers.
Jesus comes as Bridegroom.	Jesus returns as King.
The Tribulation Period follows it.	The Millennium follows it.

Revelation 22:20

He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Luke 21:25-28

- 25 “And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves,
- 26 people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
- 27 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.
- 28 Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Matthew 24:30

Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Matthew 16:1-4

¹ And the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and to test him they asked him to show them a sign from heaven.

² He answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’

³ And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

⁴ An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah.” So He left them and departed.

Matthew 24:3-14

³ As He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

⁴ And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray.

⁵ For many will come in My Name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray.

⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.

⁷ For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

⁸ All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

⁹ “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for My Name's sake.

¹⁰ And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.

¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.

¹² And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.

¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

There are six critical signs contained in Jesus' Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24. These cover the first three and half years of the Tribulation Period.

1. Deception by false Christs – verses **4-5**
2. Disputes and warfare among nations – verses **6-7**
3. Disease and famine worldwide – verses **7-8**
4. Defection of false believers – verses **10-13**
5. Declaration of the Gospel to the whole world – verse **14**

The Greek term translated as “birth pains” in verse 8 is the word “**odin**”, which literally means

the contractions that begin and increase during the birth of a baby.

In *1 Thessalonians 5*, Paul highlighted the sudden arrival of labor pains to describe the unexpected arrival of the Rapture. But Jesus used the metaphor in another way, highlighting the increasing intensity of labor pains to explain the unfolding of the Second Coming.

Danger that requires extreme Care.

The signs highlighted in *Matthew 24* are not related to the Rapture, which is the return of Jesus for His church. These are apocalyptic signs that point to the Second Coming and not the Rapture. This second event will not be Jesus coming **for** His saints in the Rapture, it will be Jesus coming **with** His saints seven years after the Rapture in order to set up His Kingdom on earth, the Millennium.

Remember a very important fact – **there are no signs, not a single one to predict the Rapture**. Jesus is coming without warning to gather His children, the believers who are watching and ready.

Three things apparent from Matthew 24

1. Jesus wants us to study the future in preparation, He wants to teach us.

John Frame

Every Bible passage about the return of Christ is written for a practical purpose – not to help us to develop a theory of history, but to motivate our obedience.

2. Jesus wants to transform us for the future. *John 16:1, 4*

¹ I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.

⁴ But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

3. Jesus wants us to trust Him with the future. *John 16:33*

I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Hebrews 9:27-28

²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.

Dr. John F Walvoord

From the present-day vantage point... since the first coming is history and the second coming is prophecy, it is comparatively easy to go back into the Old Testament and separate the doctrine of Jesus' two comings. In the first coming He came as a man, lived among people, performed miracles, ministered as a prophet as the Old Testament predicted, and died on the cross and rose again. All these events clearly relate to His first coming. On the other hand, the passages that speak of His coming to reign, judging the earth, rescuing the righteous from the

wicked, and installing His kingdom on earth relate to His second coming. They are prophesy not history.

<i>The First Coming of Christ</i>	<i>The Second Coming of Christ</i>
Jesus was born in obscurity. Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes.	Jesus will be seen by every eye. Jesus will be clothes royally in a robe dipped in blood.
Jesus was surrounded by livestock and common people. The door of the inn was closed to Him.	Jesus will be accompanied by the massive armies of Heaven. The door of the heavens will be opened to Him.
Jesus' voice was the tiny cry of a baby.	Jesus' voice will thunder as the sound of many waters.
Jesus was the Lamb of God who came bringing salvation.	Jesus will be the Lion of the tribe of Judah who comes bringing judgment.

There are 1,845 Biblical references to the Second Coming, including 318 in the New Testament. In the Old Testament, Christ's return is emphasized in no less than seventeen books, and New Testament authors speak of it in 23 of the 27 books.

Seven out of every ten chapters in the New Testament mention the Second Coming. And one out of every thirty verses in the New Testament teach us about the return of Jesus to the earth. In the first two books written for the earth church, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, the return of Christ is taught in every single chapter. Jesus Himself referred to His return 21 times. His Second Coming is second only to salvation as the most dominant subject in the New Testament.

Dr. Tim LaHaye

If Jesus Christ does not return physically and literally to this earth to set up His kingdom, Christianity will turn out to be the greatest hoax in history. His return is so intimately tied to the most central doctrine of the Bible and the church that the validity of Christianity totally depends on it.

Jude 14-15

¹⁴ It was also about these that Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones,

¹⁵ to execute judgment on all and to convict all the ungodly of all their deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

Daniel 7:13-14

¹³ I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a Son of Man, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him.

¹⁴ And to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

Zechariah 14:3-4

³ Then the Lord will go out and fight against those nations as when He fights on a day of

battle.

⁴ On that day His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.

Matthew 24:27, 29-30

²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

²⁹ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Acts 1:10-12

¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,

¹¹ and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.”

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

Matthew 24:36

But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10

⁵ This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—

⁶ since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,

⁷ and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels

⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

⁹ They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might,

¹⁰ when He comes on that day to be glorified in His saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

Revelation 1:7; 22:20

^{1:7} Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen.

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Dr. Tim LaHaye

There will be a stellar Event. Celestial. Cosmic. Greater than earth. Greater than the heavens. And it will suck the air out of humanity's lungs and send men and women and kings and presidents and tyrants to their knees. It will have no need of spotlights, fog machines, amplified music, synthesizers, or special effects. It will be real.

Revelation 19:12-13

¹² His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a Name written that no one knows but Himself.

¹³ He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the Name by which He is called is The Word of God.

The Holy Ghost's description through the Apostle John.

1. Jesus' eyes are flames of fire that burn up all that is false.

This happens as He gazes into the hearts and minds of all mankind. This signifies the Lord's ability to see deeply into the hearts of men and deal with all injustice.

Revelation 1:14-15; 2:18

^{1:14} The hairs of His head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire,

¹⁵ His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters.

^{2:18} "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The Words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.'"

2. Jesus' head is crowned with many crowns.

3. Jesus' robe is dipped in blood.

This speaks of redemption secured for us on the cross by the Lamb of God slain.

In Revelation 19, the Lord is given a Name "Faithful and True" (verse 11) and later "The Word of God" (verse 13). Then as He leads His army, us, His Name is "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (verse 16).

Isaiah 45:23

By Myself I have sworn; from My mouth has gone out in righteousness a Word that shall not return: 'To Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.'

Romans 14:10-12

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God;

¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God."

¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Philippians 2:9-11

⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Zechariah 14:5

And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall 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.

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you,

¹² and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,

¹³ so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.

Matthew 25:31

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

2 Thessalonians 1:5-8

⁵ This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—

⁶ since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,

⁷ and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels

⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Revelation 19:11

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The One sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

Revelation 19:20

And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

Revelation 20:10

⁹ And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,

¹⁰ and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

N. T. Wright

The word judgment carries negative overtones for a good many people in our liberal and post-liberal world. We need to remind ourselves that throughout the Bible God's coming judgment is a good thing, something to be celebrated, longed for, yearned over. It causes people to shout for joy and the trees of the field to clap their hands. In the world of systematic injustice, bullying, violence, arrogance, and oppression, the thought that there might come a day when the wicked are firmly put in their place and the poor and weak are given their due is the best news there can be. Faced with a world in rebellion, a world full of exploitation and wickedness, a good God must be a God of judgment.

Revelation 22:17

The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Prophecy Pervades Scripture

John MacArthur & Richard Mayhue

- *62 of the Bible's 66 books contain predictive information, with Ruth, Song of Solomon, Philemon, and 3 John as the only exceptions. That's 94%.*
- *Breaking things down even further, there are a total of 31,124 verses in Scripture. Incredibly, 27% of those verses, 8,352, refer to prophetic issues. And 22% of all prophetic verses refer the Christ's Second Coming.*
- *Looking specifically at the End Times, there are approximately 333 specific biblical prophecies dealing with Christ's two events. One-third describe His first coming and two-thirds are connected to His Second Coming.*

Prophecy Proves God's Sovereignty Isaiah 46:8-11

⁸ "Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors,

⁹ remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,

¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

¹¹ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

From the New Living Translation:

⁸ "Do not forget this! Keep it in mind! Remember this, you guilty ones.

⁹ Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me.

¹⁰ Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.

¹¹ I will call a swift bird of prey from the east—a leader from a distant land to come and do my bidding. I have said what I would do, and I will do it.

Prophecy Promotes Bible Integrity John 13:19; 14:29 (New Living Translation)

¹⁹ I tell you this beforehand, so that when it happens you will believe that I am the Messiah. Jesus Himself is the fulfillment of prophecy.

- A descendent of Abraham and the tribe of Judah – *Genesis 12:3; 49:10*.

³ I will bless those who bless You, and him who dishonors You I will curse, and in You all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between His feet, until tribute comes to Him; and to Him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

- From David's family line – *Isaiah 9:7*.

Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from

- Born in Bethlehem – *Micah 5:2*.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me One who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

- His Name, Immanuel; born of a virgin – *Isaiah 7:14*.

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His Name Immanuel.

- Based His ministry in Galilee, spoke in parables, and did wonders among the people – *Isaiah 9:1-2; 6:9-10; 61:1-2*.

^{9:1} But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

^{6:9} And he said, "Go, and say to this people: "'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'

¹⁰ Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

^{61:1} The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to bring good news to the poor; He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

- He was betrayed, pierced for our sins, and crucified with criminals – *Zechariah 11:12-13; Isaiah 53:5, 12*.

¹² Then I said to them, “If it seems good to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them.” And they weighed out as my wages thirty pieces of silver.

¹³ Then the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—the lordly price at which I was priced by them. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord, to the potter.

Isaiah 53:5, 12.

⁵ But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed.

¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

- **After His burial in a wealthy man’s tomb, He rose again – Isaiah 53:9-11.**

⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked and with a rich man in His death, although He had done no violence, and there was no deceit in His mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

¹¹ Out of the anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous One, My servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities.

<i>The Old Testament Prophecy</i>	<i>The Description</i>	<i>The New Testament Fulfillment</i>
<i>Isaiah 7:14</i>	Jesus would be born of a virgin.	<i>Matthew 1:22-23</i>
<i>2 Samuel 7:12-16</i>	Jesus would come from the line of David.	<i>Matthew 1:1</i>
<i>Micah 5:2</i>	Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.	<i>Matthew 2:6; Luke 1:68-75; 2:4, 11</i>
<i>Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1</i>	A messenger would prepare the way for Jesus.	<i>Matthew 11:10</i>
<i>Isaiah 61:1-2</i>	Jesus would proclaim the Lord’s favor.	<i>Luke 4:21</i>
<i>Isaiah 49:1-7</i>	Jesus would be the light to the Gentiles.	<i>Luke 2:25-32</i>
<i>Zechariah 11:12-13</i>	Jesus would be betrayed.	<i>Matthew 27:6-10</i>
<i>Zechariah 9:9-10</i>	Jesus would enter Jerusalem lowly and riding on a donkey.	<i>Matthew 21:1-17; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-40; John 12:12-19</i>
<i>Isaiah 50:6-7</i>	Jesus would come as a servant.	<i>Matthew 5:17-18</i>
<i>Isaiah 53:3-12</i>	Jesus would suffer and be despised.	<i>Matthew 26:63</i>
<i>Psalms 118:22</i>	Jesus would be rejected.	<i>Matthew 21:42</i>
<i>Psalms 22:13-18</i>	Jesus would be crucified.	<i>Matthew 27:35, 39-44; John 20:25</i>

Protection From False Teaching – Matthew 24:4-5; Mark 13; Luke 21; 2 Thessalonians 2; Revelation 20

⁴ And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray.

⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray’.”

Prophecy Prepares Us For The Last Days – 1 Thessalonians 5:4

But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.

John 16:4

But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

Prophecy Provides Guidance – Revelation 2:7, 11, 17; 3:6, 13, 22

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Charles Dyer

God gave prophecy to change our hearts, not to fill our heads with knowledge. God never predicted future events just to satisfy our curiosity about the future. He includes with His predictions, practical applications to life. God’s pronouncements about the future carry with them specific advice for the “here and now”.

Prophecy Promises Spiritual Blessing – Revelation 1:3; 22:7

^{1:3} Blessed is the one who reads aloud the Words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

^{22:7} “And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the Words of the prophecy of this book.”