

END TIMES

(A study given by Pastor Wayne Pratt in Houston from 11/30/06 – 12/3/06)

V. THE TRIBULATION

A. Various Views Concerning the Rapture and the Tribulation

1. ***Pre-Tribulation Rapture** - the Church will be raptured before the Tribulation begins, to be with Christ in heaven and to return with Him at the end of the Tribulation at His Second Coming;
2. **Mid-Tribulation Rapture** - the Church will go through the first half (3½ years) of the Tribulation, and will be raptured and taken to heaven at the midpoint;
3. **Post-Tribulation Rapture** - the Church will go through the entire Tribulation and be raptured simultaneously with Jesus' return to the earth in the Second Coming
4. NOTE: As already seen in Section II on p.**Error! Bookmark not defined.**, Jesus compared His return to three different "watches" in Luke 12:35-40. In reality, as we will see, HE DOES APPEAR THREE TIMES – before, in the middle of, and at the end of the Tribulation, so ALL THREE VIEWS ARE AT LEAST PARTIALLY CORRECT!

B. Why So Many Different Views?

1. God deliberately made this issue difficult so that only the most serious, diligent study and comprehensive knowledge of the whole spectrum of Biblical prophecy can begin to resolve it. What we believe concerning these things DOES matter! Our view of the Rapture and end times has enormous consequences.
2. Just as God kept many of the mysteries of the Church Dispensation hidden from those in previous ages (Eph. 3:3-9), so He deliberately "sealed" many of the truths concerning the events of the Tribulation until the time of their fulfillment began to draw near: "***There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book— will be delivered. But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end.***" (Dan. 12:1-4).
3. **We all have imperfect knowledge!** In 1 Corinthians 13, Paul states that even he did not "*fathom all mysteries and all knowledge . . . For we know in part and we prophesy in part...Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror... Now I know in part; then I shall know fully.*"

C. What will the Great Tribulation be like?

1. There has never been anything like it in the past, nor will there ever be in the future! (Dan. 12:1; Mat. 24:21-22)
2. It will be a time of great trouble **encompassing the whole earth!** (Jer. 25:30-33; Luke 21:35; Rev. 3:10)
3. During the Tribulation, a world dictator called the "beast" or antichrist will reign over the whole earth and everyone must worship him (Rev. 13)
4. The purpose of the Great Tribulation is to judge the world (Isa. 13:6-11) and fulfill prophecy concerning Israel. It is NOT to purify or perfect the church!
5. The Tribulation begins immediately after the Rapture:
 - a. "*Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. IT WILL BE JUST LIKE THIS ON THE*

DAY THE SON OF MAN IS REVEALED. *On that day no one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife! . . . I tell you, on that night two people will be in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding grain together; one will be taken and the other left*" (Luke 17:26-35).

- b. In Revelation 12, as soon as the Male Child is caught up to God's throne, the Woman flees to the desert for 1,260 days (3½ year Tribulation)

D. Will the Church Have to Go Through the Tribulation?

1. The Rapture is always mentioned in Scripture as a hope and comfort – our motivation for holy living now is to escape the horrible Tribulation that follows the Rapture. If all we have to look forward to is 3½ or 7 years of mass death, destruction and wickedness, then we are of all men most miserable!
 - a. Tit. 2:11-13: *"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."*
 - b. 1 Thess. 4:13-18: *"Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope... According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words."*
 - c. 1 John 3:2-3 - *"We know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as He is pure."*
 - d. Luke 21:34-36: *"Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day [Tribulation] will close on you unexpectedly like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able TO ESCAPE ALL THAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."*
 - e. NOTE: We have "tribulations" now in this present world (John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 1 Pet. 1:6-7), but these cannot compare to the *Great Tribulation!* (Mat. 24:21) If the Tribulation is necessary to purify and perfect the saints, how did Paul, John and all of the other "*dead in Christ*" mentioned in 1 Thess. 4:16 prepare for Christ's return?
2. The Tribulation is the Great Day of God's Wrath – children of light are not appointed to wrath
 - a. NOTE about **Paul's letters to the Thessalonians**: In less than one month, Paul had taught the Thessalonian believers extensively about the Rapture, the Tribulation, and related end times events (Acts 17:1-4; 1 Thess. 5:1; 2 Thess. 2:5). The Rapture and or the Lord's Second Coming are mentioned in every chapter of the two epistles except for the final chapter of 2 Thessalonians. (1 Thess. 1:9-10; 2:19-20; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:1-11, 23-24; 2 Thess. 1:6-10; 2:1-9).
 - b. 1 Thess. 1:9-10: *"You turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for His Son [NOT TRIBULATION!] from heaven, whom He raised from the dead— Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath."*
 - c. 1 Thess. 5:1-10: *"Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, 'Peace and safety,' destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant*

- woman, and they will not escape. **But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.** You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. **We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.** So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. **For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.** He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him.”
- d. Throughout Scripture, we see a pattern: God always removes the righteous first before He sends judgment on the wicked. Jesus referred to two of these examples when He compared the events of the Rapture and the Tribulation to the “*days of Noah*” and the “*days of Lot*.” In both cases, the righteous **escaped before the judgment of God** came (Mat. 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-32).
- (1) God removed Noah before the flood
 - (2) God removed Lot before destroying Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:15-22)
 - (3) “*The righteous are taken away to be spared from evil*” (Isa. 57:1).
 - (4) “*Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; **hide yourselves for a little while until His wrath has passed by.** See, the LORD is coming out of His dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins*” (Isa. 26:20-21).
- e. Jesus promised to keep His faithful ones from a worldwide “*hour of trial*” that would test everyone living on the earth: “*Since you have kept My command to endure patiently, **I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth***” (Rev. 3:10).
- f. An argument that is made by the mid-Tribulationists is the following: According to Rev. 6:17, the wrath of God is only poured out after the opening of the sixth seal, i.e., at the middle of the 7-year Tribulation. They see the church going through the first 3½ years of the Tribulation, with God delivering them from His wrath which characterizes the second 3½ years. The problem with this argument is as follows:
- (1) At the opening of the first seal, the antichrist is revealed and he begins his mission of world conquest (Rev. 6:1-2); as early as the second seal (Rev. 6:3-4), there is already widespread death and destruction in the earth; by the fourth seal (Rev. 6:7-8), one-fourth of the entire world population is already dead. Surely God’s wrath and judgment are already being revealed at this point (Rom. 2:5)!
 - (2) According to 2 Thessalonians 2, the Day of the Lord begins as soon as the antichrist is revealed, when he will oppose everything that is called God and deceive the world with false miracles; and God Himself will send a powerful delusion to condemn all those who refused to love and believe the truth. This sounds like God is more than a little bit angry!
3. The Thessalonian believers were terrified, thinking that they had missed the Rapture. Paul wrote his second letter to assure them that they had not missed the Rapture. If Paul had taught them that the Rapture followed the Day of the Lord, they would not have been troubled but rather rejoicing because the Lord’s coming was very near: “*Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to Him, we ask you, **brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.** Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God. Don’t you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things?*” (2 Thess. 2:1-5).

4. In the book of Revelation, the church is mentioned 19 times in Chapters 1 through 3, but is never seen again until the Marriage of the Lamb in Rev. 19:6-9.; never once is the church mentioned as being here on the earth during the Tribulation. When Christ returns to the earth at the end of the Tribulation, His Bride returns *with Him* (Rev. 19:11-14; 17:14) – this makes sense if the Church was raptured before the Tribulation! But if Jesus were coming for the Church after the Tribulation (as the post-Tribulationists maintain), this would be impossible!

E. **Daniel's 70th Week (Dan. 9:24-27)**

1. Jesus quoted Daniel 9:27 when He was speaking about the Tribulation in Mat. 24:15: *“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand.”*
2. Dan. 9:24: *“Seventy ‘sevens’ [490 years] are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.”*
 - a. “sevens” = weeks of years [see Lev. 25:3-4, 8]
 - b. These 70 “weeks” of years, including the final “week” specifically concern Israel (“*your people and your holy city*”).
3. Dan. 9:25: *“Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens’ [49 years], and sixty-two ‘sevens’ [434 years]. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.”*
 - a. The Jewish month = 30 days
 - b. The Jewish year = 360 days
4. Artaxerxes' decree (Neh. 2:1-8; 2 Chron. 36:15-20)
 - a. His reign began in 465 B.C.; the decree came in the 20th year of his reign (Neh. 2:1) or 445 B.C., the 1st of Nisan or March 14
 - b. Jerusalem rebuilt in 49 years
5. Dan. 9:26: *“After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.”*
 - a. It took 434 years from the time of rebuilding to the Cross
 - b. 69 weeks x 7 (days in a week) = 483 years x 360 (days in a year) = 173,880 days □ April 6, A.D. 32: day Christ made triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Luke 19:40-44)
 - (1) they did not recognize the time (fulfillment of Daniel's and Zechariah's prophecies)
 - (2) predicted the destruction of Jerusalem foretold by Daniel (“*ruler who will destroy*”) and fulfilled in 70 A.D.
 - (3) Messiah was cut off soon after
 - (4) 69 weeks have been fulfilled—we are living in the parenthesis between the 69th and the 70th! [Note that Dan. 9:24 has **not** yet been fulfilled]
6. Dan. 9:27: *“He will confirm a covenant with many for one “seven.” In the middle of the “seven” he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”*
 - a. This 70th week (Tribulation Period), is a time when God’s special focus is back on the Israelites as a people distinct from the Gentiles and the Church. As mentioned before, this does not seem to be a time when the Church, with its distinct calling and purpose, could be present – if the Church

were present, there could be no distinction between Jew and Gentile.

- b. Antichrist is unveiled immediately after the Restrainer is removed (Rapture)
- c. Antichrist makes a 7-year treaty with the Jews (probably promising to help rebuild temple and restore temple sacrifices)
- d. According to Dan. 9:26, the antichrist will be of the people who destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D., i.e., Roman. Many believe there will be a revived Roman Empire in the last days, consisting of an alliance of ten nations, perhaps of the European Union.
- e. Israel must rebuild the temple at the beginning of this 7-year period, because sacrifice and offerings will be resumed similar to that of the Mosaic Law period.
- f. After 3½ years, the antichrist will betray Israel and he breaks his treaty with them
- g. The antichrist then sets up the “*abomination that causes desolation*” (Mat. 24:15-22), desecrating the temple and erecting a statue of himself, proclaiming himself to be God (2 Thess. 2:3-4; Rev. 13:5-15 – “42 months”). NOTE: Jesus was very specific that **these events will take place in Israel**: “*So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains*” (Mat. 24:15-16).

F. Understanding the Book of Revelation

1. **Key Verse to Studying Revelation: Rev. 1:19** - “*Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.*” The Book of Revelation is thus divided into three time periods (as already mentioned, we must know how to “rightly divide” the Scripture before attempting to interpret it - 2 Tim. 2:15):
 - a. Past (“*what you have seen*”) - Chapter 1: Christ
 - b. Present (“*what is now*”) - Chapters 2-3: The Church
 - c. Future (“*what will take place later*”) - Chapters 4-22
 - (1) [NOTE: As previously mentioned, in Chapters 1-3, the “church” is mentioned 19 times, but is never seen again until the Marriage of the Lamb in Rev. 19:6-9; never once is the church mentioned as being here on the earth during the events of the Tribulation.]
 - (2) Chapters 4 & 5 are scenes in heaven.
 - (3) Chapter 6 clearly shows the beginning of the 7-year Tribulation
2. **The events of the Tribulation are repeated twice—for emphasis and to show 2 different perspectives**
 - a. God often speaks twice to show importance
 - (1) Gen. 41:17-32 - 7 cows, 7 heads of grain: “*The dreams of Pharaoh are **one and the same**. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do...The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided [Heb. “established”] by God, and God will do it soon.*”
 - (2) NOTE: Joseph knew from his own experience (Gen. 37:5-9)
 - (3) Heb. 6:17-18: “*God wanted to make the unchanging nature of His purpose very clear...God did this...by two unchangeable things...*”
 - (4) “*Verily, Verily...*”
 - (5) 2 Cor. 13:1 - 2 or 3 witnesses
 - b. 2 Views of Tribulation: Jewish & Gentile/Church Visions [see Chart in *Appendix A*]

- c. Jewish Vision (Revelation 6-11) - distinctive terminology:
 - (1) altar (Rev. 6:9)
 - (2) figs/fig tree (Rev. 6:13)
 - (3) golden incense altar (Rev. 8:3-5; 9:13)
 - (4) outer court of the temple given to Gentiles (Rev. 11:1-2)
 - (5) holy city...great city figuratively called Sodom and Egypt [Jerusalem] (Rev. 11:2,8)
 - (6) 2 olive trees/2 lampstands (Rev. 11:4-8; Zech. 4)
 - (7) ark of the covenant (Rev. 11:19)
 - (8) His servants the prophets (Rev. 10:7; 11:18)
 - (9) *Sealing of **144,000 Jews** (Rev. 7:1-8)
- d. Gentile/Church Vision (Revelation 12-19) - distinctive terminology:
 - (1) [NOTE: Revelation 11 comes to a climactic end with the completion of the third woe, the kingdoms of the world becoming the Kingdom of our Lord and His Christ, and the dead being judged (see also Revelation 10:6). After what is clearly the consummation of the Tribulation period, God turns the prophetic clock back seven years to tell the story again from a different perspective in Revelation 12.]
 - (2) the whole world...every tribe, people, language and nation [Heb. *goyim* = “nations, gentiles”] - (Rev. 13:3,7-8)
 - (3) kings of the whole world...peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages (Rev. 16:14; 17:15; 19:15-19)
 - (4) Babylon (Revelation 17-18)
 - (5) saints...redeemed from the earth (Revelation 13; 14:3)
 - (6) 144,000 on Zion are **not** Jews (Rev. 14:1-5)

G. Revelation Chapter 12

- 1. The Woman represents all Spirit-baptized believers (v.1)
 - a. She is a wondrous sign in heaven (Eph. 2:5-6; 3:9-11; Rom. 8:11; Heb. 2:10-13; Isa. 8:18; 1 Pet. 1:12)
 - b. She is NOT the Bride of Christ (Rev. 21:9-10; Gal. 4:22-26; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25-27)
- 2. Some Common but Erroneous Interpretations
 - a. The Woman is Mary and the Male Child is Jesus
 - (1) Mary gave birth to Jesus on the earth, not in heavenly places
 - (2) her child was not caught up to the throne as soon as He was born
 - (3) Revelation 12 is prophetic, not historical
 - b. Woman Is Israel and the 12 Stars Are the 12 Tribes
 - (1) According to Gal. 4:22-26, the Old Covenant produced an earthly Jerusalem and the New Covenant a heavenly Jerusalem which is the mother of all believers in Christ
 - (2) again, Revelation 12 is prophetic, not historical

3. The Woman's Adornment
 - a. she is clothed with the sun
 - (1) God is a “*sun and shield*” (Ps. 84:11)
 - (2) Christ is the “*Sun of Righteousness*” (Mal. 4:2)
 - (3) the believer is clothed with Christ at baptism (Gal. 3:27; Isa. 61:10)
 - b. the moon is under her feet
 - (1) moon is a “*faithful witness*” of the sun's light, having no light of her own (Ps. 89:37)
 - (2) standing in God's grace (Rom. 5:2; 1 Pet. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:9-10)
 - c. crown of 12 stars on her head
 - (1) stars represent angels or “messengers”, i.e., 12 apostles (Rev. 1:20; 21:14)
 - (2) mind filled with the truth of apostolic doctrine (Acts 2:42)
 - d. travailing in birth—prayer (Mat. 24:8; Rom. 8:22-26; Gal. 4:19)
4. The Red Dragon Is Satan (vv.3-4,9)
 - a. in heaven (vv.7-9)
 - (1) Job 1:6-12
 - (2) Eph. 2:2; 6:11-12
 - b. 7 heads and crowns, 10 horns
 - (1) devil has certain wisdom, power and authority
 - (2) called “*prince*” (John 14:30), “*ruler*” (Eph. 2:2) and “*god*” (2 Cor. 4:4)
 - (3) overcome the power of the enemy (Luke 10:18-20)
 - c. casts down 1/3 stars with his tail
 - (1) tail speaks of lies and deception (Isa. 9:15-16)
 - (2) stars are saints who were shining for God (Dan. 12:3; Rev. 1:20)
 - (3) deception is Satan's major strategy
 - (a) serpent's cunning (2 Cor. 11:3, 13-14)
 - (b) lying signs and miracles (Rev. 13:11-14; 2 Thess. 2:9-11)
 - (c) devil's schemes (Eph. 6:11)
 - d. wants to devour the male child (v.4)
5. The Male Child: Overcomers
 - a. will rule all the nations with an iron scepter (v.5)
 - (1) Rev. 2:26-29 “*to him who overcomes...*”
 - (2) those who suffer and endure will reign with Christ (2 Tim. 2:11-13)
 - b. snatched up to God and to His throne
 - (1) refers to the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:16-17)
 - (2) one will be taken, one left behind (Luke 17:34-36)

- c. **the woman is left behind for 1,260 days** (3½ years) of Tribulation (v.6) – all of her adornment was external
 - d. the Male Child is hidden until he is caught up to God's throne – He possessed an inner glory that was “worked in”
 - (1) speaks of a hidden life/glory
 - (a) hidden with Christ (Col. 3:4)
 - (b) King's daughter “*all glorious within*” (Ps. 45:13 - KJV)
 - (c) all of the woman's adornment/glory is external
 - (2) righteousness, grace and truth we receive must work in our lives
6. War in Heaven (vv.7-11)
- a. devil has fallen angels with him (Mat. 25:41; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6)
 - b. he was not strong enough—hurled down to earth
 - c. Satan the accuser (v.10)
 - (1) accuses “*our brothers*” [Christians] before God
 - (2) day and night
 - d. the overcomers (Male Child) **overcame** him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony (v.11)
7. Woe to the Earth and to the Woman (vv.12-17)
- (1) after the rapture, Satan turns his attention to the Christians who were left behind (v.13)
 - (2) for 3½ years (“*a time, times and half a time*”) God takes care of the woman
 - (3) Satan finally persecutes “*the rest of her offspring*” - those who still remain faithful to God during the Tribulation (v.17)

H. First 3½ years of the Tribulation Summarized

1. Revelation 6 (6 seal judgments) - horrible time of persecution, war and bloodshed
2. Multitudes of believers who were left behind when the Rapture occurred refuse to worship the antichrist and are put to death (Revelation 12-14)
 - a. In Revelation 12, only the Male Child is caught up to the throne – the woman is left behind for 1,260 days (3½ years)
 - b. In Revelation 13, the antichrist is given power to make war against the saints for 42 months (3½ years) and to put them to death
3. After 3½ years, the 6th seal is opened (Rev. 6:12-14), and the sun is darkened, the stars fall, etc. This corresponds to the passage in Mat. 24:29-31 which describes the resurrection of the Tribulation Martyrs: “*Immediately after the distress of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.*”
4. Those resurrected are they who “*came out of the Great Tribulation*” (Rev. 7:9-14).
 - a. The only way to come out of the Tribulation and be saved is to refuse the mark of the beast and die (Rev. 13:15). NOTE: There are no living believers caught up here as in the Rapture – this

cannot possibly be the same group or event as described in 1 Thess. 4:16-17!

- b. There will be a “great multitude” referred to as a “harvest” gathered up by the angels (Mark 13:26-27; Rev. 14:12-16); this is again in contrast to the Rapture, where the saints meet Jesus in the air.
5. 144,000 Jews are sealed in order to protect them from the antichrist’s persecution during the last 3½ years of the Tribulation (Rev. 7:1-8).

I. Last 3½ years of the Tribulation Summarized

1. Begins with the opening of the 7th seal (Revelation 8), where there is silence in heaven for a half an hour. So terrible are the plagues about to be visited upon the earth that all the music and praise of heaven is halted. Things become progressively worse upon the earth during this second half of the Tribulation.
2. Known as “Jacob’s Trouble” because the antichrist turns his full wrath and fury against Israel after breaking his covenant with them:
 - a. *“How awful that day will be! None will be like it. It will be a time of trouble for Jacob, but he will be saved out of it”* (Jer. 30:7).
 - b. *“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered”* (Dan. 12:1).
 - c. For 1,260 days (3½ years), two Jewish witnesses will prophesy and work wonders in Jerusalem; they are finally killed by the beast and resurrected three days later (Rev. 11:1-12)
3. At the end of the 3½ years, Jesus returns with *“thousands of His saints”* in order to make war and execute judgment upon the wicked (Jude 14-15) at the Battle of Armageddon (Rev. 19:11-21; 2 Thess. 1:6-10). [NOTE: The Marriage of the Bride and Groom [the Rapture] is already past by this time (Rev. 19:6-8)].
 - a. This will be a horrible day of judgment and not a day of comfort or joy (Zechariah 14:1-4); it is called the *“Great Day of God’s Wrath”* (Rev. 6:16-17)
 - b. Jesus returns and “stands” on the earth - no one will be caught up at this time (Job 19:25-26; Zech. 14:4)
 - c. ALL shall see the Son of Man - it will not be secretive nor sudden (Rev. 1:7)
 - d. The beast and the false prophet are thrown into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20)

J. “The Day of the Lord” vs. “The Day of Christ”

1. The Day of the Lord (the Great Tribulation) – a time of horrible judgment, culminating in the Second Coming of Christ, followed by a time of special Divine blessing to be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom
 - a. Will come as a *“thief in the night,”* surprising everyone (1 Thess. 5:1-5; 2 Thess. 2:1-4)
 - b. Will be darkness and NOT light (Amos 5:18-20)
 - c. It will be a day of wrath, trouble, distress, desolation (Zeph. 1:14-18)
 - d. See also Isa. 2:12-21; 13:9-16; 34:1-8; Joel 1:15-2:11; 3:9-12; Obad. 15-17
2. The Day of Christ (the Rapture)
 - a. 1 Cor. 1:8; Phil. 1:6, 10
 - b. It will be a day of rejoicing (Phil. 2:16; 2 Cor. 1:14)

- c. It will be a day of salvation! (1 Cor. 5:5 - "*Day of the Lord Jesus*" - Gk. & KJV)