

End Times Subjects

Purpose:

There are countless opinions about prophecies leading up to the final days. Some of these require debatable interpretations of one or two verses, and selective interpretations of others to support them. This work offers an analytical tool to minimize these conflicts.

Beginning from deep within the Old Testament, there are hundreds of verses relating to these final days, but since this was not a priority then as it is now, most of these contain few details. By rounding up these bits of information scattered throughout God's Word, a clearer picture will come into focus

Synopsis

This study begins with Babylon. In Daniel chapter 2 God ordained a series of five global empires to maintain some level of international order in an otherwise self destructive world. Four of these empires have come and gone, and most would agree that we have not seen a single power control the world since Rome (the fourth empire). Presumably, the fifth empire will become evident with the opening of the first seal in Revelation chapter six.

During the reign of this final empire an ungodly faction will arise from within it that will disrupt God's order (see Daniel 7) and plunge it into civil war and persecution. This paralleled in the opening of the second seal of Revelation six. Famine and disease soon follow on a global scale. Next come a series of intensifying natural and supernatural phenomenon, primarily targeting those who persecute God's people (as did the plagues of Egypt).

Ultimately, God's people inherit the Earth under the rulership of God Himself – as prophesied at the outset in Daniel chapter 2.

The search begins with the description of the final global empire in Daniel chapter 2, and compiles a list of subjects in the approximate order they first occur as the reading proceeds throughout the rest of the Bible.

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1 The Fifth Empire [\(top\)](#)

Dan 2:32-35,41-43, Dan 7:7,17-20,23-24

As the population of the world increased God ordained a series of five global governments to maintain some level of international order. These empires were depicted in a dream of king Nebuchadnezzar as a statue with a head of gold, arms and chest of silver, belly and thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet of a mixture of iron and clay. The decreasing value of the metals in the sequence depicted increasingly inferior regimes.

Historically, the gold, silver, bronze, and iron are clearly identifiable as Nebuchadnezzar himself, the Medes and Persians, Alexander the great, and Rome, respectively. Inasmuch the fifth and final empire has not yet been clearly identified historically, endless speculations and debates continue.

The underlying principles of these empires is that God has continued to provide a platform upon which people can continue to exist and individually choose whether or not they desire to walk with God.

These kingdoms do have a date code. In Dan.2:34-35 and 44-45 we see that God's kingdom (represented here as a stone cut without hands) will pulverize and eliminate this sequence. For whatever the form of this destruction, God's kingdom is clearly described as the agent of it.

Before I began this study I was puzzled that only four empires were mentioned in chapter seven of Daniel. Chapter seven begins with a vision revealed to Daniel when the Babylonian empire was about to be replaced by the first of the four remaining God-ordained empires. So in this count, the fifth kingdom of the statue in chapter 2 becomes the fourth kingdom on this list. In this series, greater detail is shared concerning the four remaining empires through portraying them as symbolic beasts.

Daniel 7 reveals that these kingdoms will eventually be inherited by the saints of God. A little Scriptural bonus here: In Matthew 5:5, Jesus said "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth." So for whatever the challenges the mayhem of end-times prophesies may contain, we may take comfort in the protection of our souls and in the ultimate outcomes.

In any case, while an empire carries out God's authority our behavior and attitudes are clear. **1Tim 2:1 I exhort therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings, be made for all men; 2 for kings and all that are in high place; that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and gravity. 3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior;**

When the fifth empire is introduced in Daniel 2, it is noted three times that it is inherently divided and unstable. None-the-less, the initial commission of this empire is to maintain some level of international order.

Later, after Nebuchadnezzar is gone and Babylon is about to be conquered, Daniel is given a more detailed vision of the remaining four kingdoms. By our current era, since three of these empires have already come and gone, we will focus upon the fourth and final kingdom of the updated list in chapter 7. We also learn in this chapter that this empire eventually collapses into civil war.

Dan 7:7. After this I saw in the night-visions, and, behold, a fourth beast, terrible and powerful, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth; it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

Again, this final empire is described in 7:33.

7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all the kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. 24a And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom shall ten kings arise:.....

This final kingdom does not come across as a pleasant situation. The global diversities unavoidably have conflicting objectives that can only be mitigated by a force greater than any of them. Religions and politics must all be forced to comply with global objectives.

At some point this final kingdom is destroyed by civil war when force arises from within it that begins by destroying three of the ten kingdoms. This is repeatedly mentioned in the following verses from Daniel chapter 7.

7:8. I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

7:20. and concerning the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, and before which three fell, even that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake great things, whose look was more stout than its fellows. 7:21. I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; 7:22. until the ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High, and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

7:23. Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all the kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

7:24. And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom shall ten kings arise: and another shall arise after them; and he shall be diverse from the former, and he shall put down three kings.

7:25. And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time.

Besides the destruction of the final empire through rebellion and civil war, this insurrection is deadly hostile towards God and his people. As will become repeatedly evident, this rebellion is or parallels the rise of the antichrist. Clearly, this man of sin will not arise until after a global coalition of ten kingdoms is established.

we see the rise of the final world empire of iron and clay with the opening of the first seal In Revelation 6 There is was no mention of bloodshed here. This conquest was achieved by a bow – a long distance weapon. With the opening of the second seal we will see the results of the civil war spoken of in Dan.7:8.

The antichrist does not create the final empire, but creates civil war and chaos within it as it bullies its way into power.

7:9. I beheld till thrones were placed, and one that was ancient of days did sit: his raiment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and the wheels thereof burning fire.

7:10. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousands of thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

7:11. I beheld at that time because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake; I beheld even till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed, and it was given to be burned with fire.

The termination of the fourth kingdom and the horn that later arose within it defines the horn as the antichrist.

7:13. I saw in the night-visions, and, behold, there came with the clouds of heaven one like unto a son of man, and he came even to the ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

7:14. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

If this son of man coming in the clouds of heaven in verse 13 is Jesus, and if verses 11 through 14 are in chronological sequence, then Christ's return would come after the beast of verse 11 was slain.

2 God's Kingdom [\(top\)](#)

Dan 2:34-35,44-45, 7:13-14,18,22,27 Lk17:20-21 1Cor 15:23-24

Eternal Gospel

Rev 14:6 And I saw another angel flying in midheaven with an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation, tribe, language, and people;

A last-chance opportunity for salvation is referenced in Rev.14:6, as the “eternal gospel.” The gospel message of salvation has not changed since it was prophesied that the heel of the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent’s head in Gen.3:15. Since then salvation has always been based upon the sacrifice of Jesus. Before Christ’s crucifixion it was accessed prophetically through repentance involving animal sacrifice. Since the crucifixion, the kingdom – the eternal gospel – has been accessed through repentance and acknowledging the sacrifice of Christ.

There are well over a dozen references to the kingdom of God in the Old Testament – here’s one from our starting point in Daniel 2 for instance:

Dan 2:44. And in the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, (symbolized by the statue in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream) and it shall stand for ever.

God’s kingdom did not just begin with the birth of Jesus. We see from verse 44 that it already existed during the time of Babylon.

In Daniel chapter 7 we learn that this kingdom consists of saints – those who have responded to the eternal gospel.

7:18. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.

7:27. And the kingdom and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High: his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Consider also **Mat.5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

The first mention of this kingdom in the New Testament was provided by John the baptist in **Mt. 3:2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”** This is the first of more than forty references to the the Kingdom of God within the book of Matthew alone.

That this kingdom consists of God’s people is confirmed in Revelation chapter 1.

Rev 1:6 and he made us to be a kingdom, to be priests unto his God and Father; to him be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Notice that this is given in present tense at the time it was written.

The kingdom in the parables

In Matt 13, Jesus used seven parables to describe different attributes of the Kingdom of God.

Mt 13:3-8 – Sower and four soils: Challenges are mentioned here – the first of which is Satan himself trying to keep the gospel from being understood and multiplying.

Mt 13:24-30 – Sower with a contaminated field: Here the multiplying yield is contaminated with look-alike weeds that will be revealed and removed (through God’s judgments) as the harvest time approaches.

Mt 13:31-32 – The mustard seed that produces a large plant: The form of this growth is scale and visibility.

Mt 13:33 – Leaven added to meal: This one speaks of the kingdom growing through permeating the surrounding environment.

Mt 13:44 – Treasure hidden in a field and Mt 13:45-46 – Pearl of great price: In these two, Jesus emphasizes the incredible value of the kingdom, that is worthy of all else that is available to us in life.

Mt 13:47-50 – A net that gathers fish of all types, that are then sorted: This one – along with the parable of the contaminated field – speaks of the judgments that will selectively sort out the believers from the non. **49 So it will be at the end of the age: the angels will come forth and remove the wicked from among the righteous, 50 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire;**

The sequence in these two parables is that the wicked are removed from among the righteous. We will better discern the significance of this as we consider additional scriptural patterns and histories where we see God's judgments bringing freedom and protection to God's people – the exodus, for instance.

Culture and life within the kingdom

The early church

How do you define a culture that is being led moment by moment by the Holy Spirit? How do you write a book on how to heal people when there is no record of Jesus ever having healed people twice in the same way?

The guiding principles do not lie in the details themselves, but by expressing the underlying fruit, power, and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. These will be expressed in natural and supernatural ways as we accept accountability to God and to our brothers and sisters, and as we walk in the respective gifts God has given us.

As the church sprang to life on the day of Pentecost and in the days following, new believers were instantly in fellowship, spending as much time as possible together. There was a lavish sharing of food, shelter, and other resources on the part of the Christians in and near Jerusalem. Pilgrims from all over the world were in Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost at that time, and a wave of Christianity became international as they returned home to their respective countries.

Later, when persecution struck Jerusalem and the church was scattered, the Jerusalem believers were welcomed and received by their former guests. This second wave of global evangelism soon ignited churches throughout the gentile world. Our lives should revolve around this godly culture of enlightening the world to the joys of sharing God's redemption of our otherwise pointless lives.

As a young man, I was walking through a market place in Guatemala when I made eye contact with a Quiche indian, and we both began praising God in Spanish. Here was this five-foot indian in his traditional clothing, and this six-foot-two Anglo far from home (I had run out of money and was teaching English for a living). We were separated by three languages, three thousand miles at birth, and extreme cultural differences, but we had instantly recognized each other as brothers and were sharing God's love and worshiping together in a public place.

The international unity of the the kingdom of God continues to be evident in surprising ways as the Holy Spirit provides recognition and love among us.

Mission and impact upon the kingdoms of the world

Christianity was born as a counter culture, and given a commission to take over the world. The prescribed methods however are very different from those of the world. Instead of conspiracy, we were to bring light; instead of destruction, healing; instead of anger and rhetoric, love; instead of lies, truth and the exposure of lies.

Except for scattered moments of history and regions of stability Christianity has been generally persecuted. Even in periods and places of favor it has suffered internal corruption as ambitious people have diverted it as a tool for their own personal or political ambitions. In the Bible itself there are well over a hundred and fifty verses dealing with such issues.

We were born into a hostile world and called to not merely survive, but to conquer. Jesus Himself said “I send you forth as sheep into the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” Jesus spoke freely of the hostility and persecution we would face as conquerors. But take some small comfort in the fact that the word “persecute” means to pursue, and not necessarily to catch.

Our visible arsenal consists of the fruits of the Spirit – “against which there is no law.” We conquer by pouring light and love into a world of darkness and hatred. By returning good in exchange for evil we “heap coals of fire.” Even so, such visible behavior is only the result of a far more powerful weapon: Walking in the revelation of the father (Mt.16:16...). As we bring what God reveals to us into the natural realm, the world and nature itself has no option but to comply. We find ourselves being prompted to express love and attention to specific individuals in various ways, and in some cases miracles and other spiritual gifts, as God might decree.

We are enigmatic and incomprehensible to the world around us (Jn.3:8, 1Cor.2), and often protected by warnings from the Holy Spirit. It took a Roman centurion to recognize how Jesus operated. When the centurion spoke, he was backed by the imperial might of the entire Roman army. When we speak as God directs us to, we are backed by the one who once said “Let there be light.”

God has designed His church to flow easily among all cultures of humanity. The publicly visible signs of this church would be the types of positive behavior and attitudes listed in the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5. These would be admired by all.

A little deeper however people would find an aloofness from tastes and practices within the surrounding culture that are incompatible with Christian beliefs.

The term “denomination” simply does not relate to Christianity. As Christians we are called to continually surge forward until we either find ourselves in agreement with each other, or develop the maturity to accept and walk with people who have differences that we do not entirely understand.

We are in the world but not of it. In 2Cor.5, we are described as ambassadors, carrying out the work that Christ began. As such, our loyalties and concerns are not to the interests of the secular world, but to conscripting other warriors to serve under the protection and objectives of God’s kingdom.

In the gospel account where Jesus sent out 70 of his disciples to preach his word, they freely plundered Satan’s realm at will (Luke 10:17-19).

For however dangerous and insane the world around us may become, those in the kingdom of God who choose to serve him and walk in his will, continue in his purpose and protection.

3 Man of Sin, Antichrist [\(top\)](#)

Dan 7:8,11,20-21,24-26, 2Thes 2:3-4,6-9, 1John 2:18,22,4:3, 2John 1:7 Rev 6:3-8, Rev 13:1-8,14-18

The term “antichrist” occurs only four times in the Bible, and only in first and second John. There it is defined as a spirit or person who denies that Jesus is of God (1John 2:18,22, 4:3, 2John 1:7). Nonetheless, it has become the de facto title of the Satanic leader who will derail and usurp control of the world’s government during the final years of humanity’s dominion over the earth.

Although the final earthbound kingdom is briefly mentioned in Daniel 2, we will have a more detailed account of it in chapter 7. Here we learn that the man of lawlessness does not arise until after the fifth kingdom (of Daniel 2) is in place, but before the intervention of the kingdom of God (the stone cut without hands).

Origin

Dan 7:7 After this I saw in the night-visions, and, behold, a fourth beast, terrible and powerful, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth; it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. **7:8.** I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.

This beast of verse 7 describes the fifth and final empire. But in verse 8, at some point after this empire has been established, a civil war takes place and overpowers this kingdom.

The division and instability of this final kingdom spoken of in Dan 2:41-43 comes to light in verse 7:8. Herein three of the ten horns are neutralized to surrender the world to the will of the other seven.

7:24. And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom shall ten kings arise: and another shall arise after them; and he shall be diverse from the former, and he shall put down three kings.

Here we see civil war that overpowers three of the ten ruling kingdoms. This boastful come-lately horn did not establish this final kingdom, but rather came to power from within it. The first seal of Revelation 6 speaks of a global empire arising. The opening of the second seal fits nicely with the above scenario of its demise – in which it descends into bloodshed. This action brings the age of the five God-ordained empires to a close, and humanity is left to do what humanity does best.

Rev 6:3 And when he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, Come. **4** And another horse came forth, a red horse: and to him that sat thereon it was given to take peace from the earth, and that they should slay one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.

This seal enabled the rise of the evil rebellion against the final world empire when he overpowers three of its ten kingdoms.

2Thes 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, touching the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together unto him; **2** to the end that ye be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by epistle as from us, as that the day of the Lord is just at hand; **3** let no man beguile you in any wise: for *it will not be*, except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition, **4** he that opposeth and exalteth himself against all that is called God or that is worshipped; so that he sitteth in the temple of God, setting himself forth as God.

Some commentators gloss over the word translated as falling away to fit with their views. It is in fact a word meaning “forsaking” or “falling.”

It appears in this passage that the man of sin will arise during a period when many Christians are failing in the face of persecutions and allure of the surrounding culture. There will be a falling away from the faith, followed by the revealing of the man of sin before the return of Christ and our gathering to him takes place.

2Thes 2:2:6 And now ye know that which restraineth, to the end that he may be revealed in his own season. **7** For the mystery of lawlessness doth already work: only *there is one* that restraineth now, until he be taken out of the way.

In Daniel 7 we learned that this person would incite civil war within the final empire. For whatever else may or may not restrain him, certainly the government under which his power developed would restrain him until his time arrived.

2Thes 2:8 And then shall be revealed the lawless one, whom the Lord Jesus shall slay with the breath of his mouth, and bring to nought by the manifestation of his coming; **9** *even he*, whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,**10** and with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

God’s personal administering of the lawless one’s demise defines him as the final ruler of the rebellion against God’s order.

1John 2:8 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be evident that they all are not of us.

This passage reveals that the antichrist begins his career as a faction of Christianity. This would be consistent with the multiple warnings to beware of false christs in the Gospels. The following further confirms that the antichrist begins with some awareness of Christianity.

2John 1:7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.

Notice that there are many such deceivers. Historically, numerous cults have arisen that claim to represent the true essence of Jesus. Some are individuals with their brains fried on drugs, but a few have gained international followings, such as Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses.

Think about it: Why would the name Christ be associated with this person at all if he was not claiming some form of connection to Christianity.

Historically, we have already seen states controlling denominations of Christianity in Spain, France, England, and other places.

Destiny

Dan 7:9. I beheld till thrones were placed, and one that was ancient of days did sit: his raiment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and the wheels thereof burning fire. 7:10. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousands of thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. 7:11. I beheld at that time because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake; I beheld even till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed, and it was given to be burned with fire. (See also Dan 7:22.)

The termination of this rebellion by eternal fire defines him as the destroyer of the fifth empire.

Another cross reference would be the end-times dissertation given by Jesus in Matthew 24. There he speaks of these wars and rumors as the beginning of troubles, and that they will be followed by persecution – which is also tied to this rebel ruler in Daniel 7.

Dan 7:21: I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;

Under the God-ordained fifth empire Christianity had been tolerated. But this enemy of the state and people could not coexist with those who continued to serve God. This persecution will continue to intensify, and comes to a head when this person attempts to take on God Himself.

Dan 7:25: And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time.

This final level of persecution may relate to the “courtyard Christians” of Rev.11:2, that are again referenced as “the rest of her seed” in Rev.12:17. This 3-1/2 years would also correlate with the time of the woman in the wilderness in Revelation 12.

The opening of the second seal in Revelation 6 brings on widespread bloodshed.

Rev 13:1 and he stood upon the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns ten diadems, and upon his heads names of blasphemy.

The number of horns and heads are too coincidental to ignore, when we consider Daniel 7:8. Satan conscripted an individual from humanity who ruled over the ten kingdoms in the earth. But only seven of these had authority, because he had overpowered three of them in his path to control. These seven all joined the beast in his blasphemy.

13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his throne, and great authority. 3 And I saw one of his heads as though it had been smitten unto death; and his death-stroke was healed: and the whole earth wondered after the beast; 4 and they worshipped the dragon, because he gave his authority unto the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? and who is able to war with him? 5 and there was given to him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and there was given to him authority to continue forty and two months.

This rebel ruler becomes the mouthpiece for Satan (who was kicked out of spiritual authority in Revelation 12) for the final three and one half years.

More comments on Antichrist verses

In Daniel 7:10 we see a figure of one trillion souls standing before the Lord. Would this approximate the total number of people who will have ever lived?

Summary

The antichrist arises as a rebellion from within the fifth and final empire ordained by God in Daniel 2. His initial identity is that of an offshoot from within the Christian church.

He overpowers three of the ten nations within the final world empire, and incites a civil war that puts him in control of the world.

He promotes global persecution against Christians.

He and his followers are ultimately judged and condemned eternally by God.

4 Judgment [\(top\)](#)

Dan 7:9-11,18,22 25-27 Dan12:2 Mat 3:12,7:22 Mat 16:27 Mat 25:31-46 Lk 17:31-35 Acts 5:1-10
1Thes 5:2-3 2Thes 1:5-6,8-9 2Thes 2:9-12 2Pet 2-9 Rev 6:9-12,11:5-6

Judgments will begin gradually as the natural consequences of human behavior. The rise of the final international empire in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7:7, although it comes with much conflict, it will maintain some level of international cooperation for awhile. (verses 7:1-6 speak of three other kingdoms that have historically followed the Babylonian empire – Medes & Persians, Alexander, and Rome.)

Dan 7:7 “After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed, and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.

Revelation 6:1-2 predicts the future rise of a final global empire with the opening of the first seal. This was written at a time when Rome was still very much in control.

Jesus explains to his disciples that we are not to be concerned about these global events, but they are in fact a prelude to judgments soon to follow.

Mat 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled: for these things must needs come to pass; but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and earthquakes in divers places. 8 But all these things are the beginning of travail.

During the present church age, there are many warnings of judgment against misbehavior and deception originating in the churches. In Acts 5:1-10 we see Ananias and Sapphira struck dead for seeking status within the church by lying about their status as givers. In Matthew 7:22-23 God condemns people who have ministered in spiritual gifts, who did so while living secret lives of sin. In

1Peter 2:1-3 tells us that false teachers bringing worldly and ungodly dogmas into the church will be judged by God.

Peter then goes on in verses 4 through 9 to describe how this policy of judgment for evil works has been played out in numerous forms throughout history.

Throughout the Bible, we see God's judgment arising in response to the way God's people are treated. God judged Egypt to bring freedom to the Israelis; He killed 85,000 warriors besieging Jerusalem in a single night, and we also see his response to the persecution of his people in prophecies relating to the final days. See also:

2Thes 1:6 if so be that it is a righteous thing with God to recompense affliction to them that afflict you,

Revelation 6:9 and following is an example of this.

Rev 6:9 And when he opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of them that had been slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 and they cried with a great voice, saying, How long, O Master, the holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And there was given them to each one a white robe; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little time, until their fellow-servants also and their brethren, who should be killed even as they were, should have fulfilled their course.

Meanwhile, back in Matthew 24, we see another case of tribulation following persecution and sacrilege.

Mat 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up unto tribulation, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all the nations for my name's sake.

In Mat 24 15-20, devastation that took place in Jerusalem in about 70AD, was brought on by continuing blood sacrifice after the crucifixion (thus denying the adequacy of Christ' blood). In verse 21, Jesus goes on to describe a greater league of tribulation that has yet to take place.

Mat 24:21 for then shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

It should be noted in these verses, that believers are being spared as the surrounding tribulation targets their persecutors.

Other than for one specific plague that clearly targets unbelievers, no actual time frames are given until climactic devastation takes place during the final 3-1/2 years. After this, a full and eternal retribution is made

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time. 26 But the judgment shall be set, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

Here again, the punishment is given response to the persecution of God' people. In Dan 7:9-11 God Himself finally judges and condemns the man of sin who takes over control from within the final kingdom. In Dan7:18,22,27 we see that God will then give the kingdom to the saints.

The beginning of the final period of judgment will be set up by the opening of the seals on the scroll presented by God the Father to Jesus, in Revelation 5.

The end game begins with a final desperate struggle to maintain some level of international peace in the world. We have seen multinational treaties where various nations have banded together to oppose common threats. NATO arose to protect against an aggressive USSR, and the United Nations took on a broader mission. Be it either or neither of these, a time will come when a global leadership will arise with the power to enforce whatever they decree upon a factious world. This is a final effort on the part of humanity to rule themselves.

The result will be some form of the empire represented by iron and clay in the prophesy in Daniel chapter 2. Mat 24:6-8 and other verses speak of this period.

Mt 24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled: for these things must needs come to pass; but the end is not yet. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and earthquakes in divers places. 8 But all these things are the beginning of travail.

Revelation 6 also speaks of this period.

Rev 6:1 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, Come. 2 And I saw, and behold, a white horse, and he that sat thereon had a bow; and there was given unto him a crown: and he came forth conquering, and to conquer.

Things intensify as persecution arises

Rev 6:9 Then shall they deliver you up unto tribulation, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all the nations for my name's sake. 10 And then shall many stumble, and shall deliver up one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall arise, and shall lead many astray. 12 And because iniquity shall be multiplied, the love of the many shall wax cold. 13 But he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come.

5 Second coming [\(top\)](#)

Dan 7:13-14, Mat 16:27 Mat 24:27,29-51 Mat 25:31-46 Mat 26:64 Mark 13:26-27 Mark 14:62 Luk 21:27 Ac 1:9-11 1Cor 15:51-52 1Thes 4:14-17

Subject	Reference
Clouds, Son of man	Dan 7:13 Mat 24:30 Mat 26:64 Mk 13:26 Mk 14:62 Luk 21:25-27 Acts 1:9-11
Christ (Son of man) given dominion.	Dan 7:14
Saints possess the kingdom	Dan 7:22,27
Angels	Mat 16:27 Mat 24:31 Mat 25:31 Mk 13:27 1Thes 4:16 2Thes 1:7
Judgment	Dan 7:27, Mat 16:27 Mat 25:32-46
After the tribulation	Mat 24:29-31
Trumpet, rapture	Mat 24:30-31 Mk 13:24-27 1Cor 15:52 1Thes 4:16-17
No one knows the time	Mat 24:36,42

Dan 7:13 I saw in the night-visions, and, behold, there came with the clouds of heaven one like unto a son of man, and he came even to the ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

6 Deception, false prophets [\(top\)](#)

Mat 24:4-5,11,23-24,26 Mark 13:21-22 Luk 21:8,26 2Thes 2:9-12 1Jn 2:18-19, 1Jn 4:1-5, 2Jn 1:7 Rev 2:20

Subject	Reference
Don't be led astray	Mat 24:4,11,23, Mar 13:21,22, Luk 21:8,
Fake Christs	Mat 24:5,24, Mar 13:22, Luk 21:8
False prophets	Mat 24:11,24 Mar 13:22, 2Jn 1:7
Endure	Mat 24:13,
False signs and wonders	Mat 24:24, Mar 13:22, 2Thes 2:9
Don't even check a rumor of false Christ	Mat 24:26, Luk 21:8
Originating from within the church	1Jn 2:18-19, Rev 2:20
Discerning error	1Jn 4:1-5

7 Persecution [\(top\)](#)

Dan 7:20-21,25, Dan 8:10,24 11:32-35, Dan 12:7,11 Mat 10:17,18,21-23 Mat 24:9-10,13 Mark 13:9,12-13 Lk 21:12-19

HAVE YOU EVER

As I was waking up one morning I found myself contemplating the words of Jesus and his prophets concerning the trials his followers would face. He said we would be hated by everyone. He said that we would face persecution and even be betrayed.

Why God? Why should the world hate us when you have instructed us to love everyone and be productive? So what's to hate as we would seek to walk in your teachings?

As I contemplated the hatred the religious establishment had for Jesus in his day, it was because he exposed their blindness to reality. He showed them how they had conscripted the laws of God to serve their own interests, rather than to promote peace and harmony among the people.

The world does not appreciate it when they choose to believe that human nature is inherently good, while God's people expose it as depraved and in need of forgiveness. The world hates reality.

Awhile back as I was considering a few of my own "have you ever" challenges, and recalling things like being bit by a rattlesnake, shot at, and sailing over an oncoming car on a motorcycle.

Then I began to contemplate the apostle Paul. Have you ever: been stoned to death, shipwrecked, or beaten with rods in public?

After 24 hours of intense pain I finally made it to a hospital, received surgery, and hallucinated in grand style for the next two days of my 8-day stay. Being completely lucid by the third day, God finally spoke to me as I was enjoying my self pity: "Have you ever.....been crucified?"

Jesus paid an incredible price for the forgiveness people don't want to believe that they need, and they will either love you for welcoming them into the family, or hate you for exposing them to reality.

Subject	Reference
Saints persecuted or defeated	Dan 7:21, 25, Dan8:10, 24, Dan11:30, 32–35, Dan12:7, Dan 12:10, Mat 24:9–10, Mark 13:9, 13, Luk 21:12, 16–17, Rev 11:2, Rev 12:17
Saints victorious	Dan 7:22, 27, Dan 11:32, 33, 34, 35, Mat 24:13, Mark 13:9, Luk 21:13–15, 18–19
Saints protected or avenged	Rev 6:9–11, Rev 12:5–6, 13–16
Saints response to persecution	Dan 11:30, 32–35
Saints deceived	Dan 11:32, 34, Mat 24:11

8 Flee or hide [\(top\)](#)

Is 26:20 Mat 10:23 Mat 24:15-20 Mark 13:14-15 Luk 17:31- Luk 21:21-22, Luk 21:36

Isaiah made a generalized and long ranged prophesy concerning the final period of mankind's governance of earth. Combining both supernatural knowledge and wisdom, it equips those who will be involved with a default posture for protection.

Isaiah 26:20 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. 21 - For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

There is a general call for God's people to minimize dependencies upon those who control the necessities of life. It warns us to step out of the way when mankind in general suffers retribution for their wicked ways. Exactly how this may be achieved, is likely to change by the minute as the corruption in world around us gathers speed. We need to walk closely with God and hear his voice.

Besides the heads up itself, there is a pattern here that is often repeated in spiritual gifts: Among the gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12, are words of knowledge and words of wisdom. In the Is.16:20-21 example the knowledge was of a future event, but it can also relate to supernatural insight in any existing condition. The wisdom part, then tells us what to do about the knowledge.

As the timing of a specific period of judgment was only a few decades away, Jesus himself provided a word of knowledge with a word of wisdom.

Luke 21:20 But when ye see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that her desolation is at hand. 21 Then let them that are in Judaea flee unto the mountains; and let them that are in the midst of her depart out; and let not them that are in the country enter therein.

These instructions relate to the first phase of evacuation – just before the attack on Jerusalem was about to take place.

Mat 24:15 When therefore ye see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet (Dan 11:31,12:11) standing in the holy place (let him that readeth understand), 16 then let them that are in Judaea flee unto the mountains: 17 let him that is on the housetop not go down to take out the things that are in his house: 18 and let him that is in the field not return back to take his cloak.

At some point after the Jerusalem was surrounded by armies, a second word of knowledge and wisdom was given. By this time Jerusalem has already been taken and the temple was being defiled. This order applied to the surrounding district of Judea; by now it was too late to escape Jerusalem herself. After Rome had desecrated the temple, the next thing they would do would be to wipe Israeli resistance off the map in the surrounding country. This continued for two or three years. (see also Mark 13:14-20.) Those who obeyed Christ's words would be leaving the area altogether.

Lk 21:36 But watch ye at every season, making supplication, that ye may prevail to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Here is more wisdom on how to cope. First we must be paying attention to what is going on around us in the spiritual realm. Then we must ask God for help to provide the way fo escape, and to stand blameless before Him. Consider 1 Cor. 10:13.

1Cor.10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it.

From this we learn that the the same God who guides us (when we ask) in physical protection also empowers us to escape spiritual entrapments. It is in taking God's spiritual warnings seriously in our daily lives, that we learn to hear and respond by faith during more visible dangers.

Not all wisdom is that mysterious, and there is nothing wrong with running when it's the logical thing to do. Jesus even instructed his disciples that when they persecute you in one city, flee to the next. God gave instructions to Joseph in the middle of the night to take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt. Just decades before the Romans attacked Jerusalem, Christians were scattered throughout the world as they were hounded by the Jewish religious leaders.

One of the interesting and godly twists was that some believers following Pentecost sold their assets so they could assist the poor. When persecution hit they were liquid and able to travel. Beyond that, they now had friends all over the world whom they had entertained and gotten saved in those wild and glorious days of the infant church. This principle was taught by Jesus in Matthew 6, when he said "...but seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.

For whatever wisdom we may or may not have, God is the ultimate source of our provision.

Mat 24:21 - for then shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And except those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

The Matthew 24 discourse then moves on to address a period yet future today. This will be the end game leading up to the return of Christ. He will then reset the government of earth and give the world's kingdoms to his people. Notice here that God's elect are protected by the fact that not all will be killed. In Revelation 12 we see a portion of God's people protected in the wilderness during a 3-1/2 year period while some believers (presumably the courtyard believers of Rev.11) will remain available for persecution during this same time. It is wise to learn how to pay attention and to walk closely with God as we see the world around us beginning to shake.

9 Saints failing [\(top\)](#)

Dan 7:25, 11:34,35, Mat 24:10-12, 2Thes 2:2-31, 1Tim 4:1-3, 2Tim 3:1-5

Dan 7:25 And he will speak against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be handed over to him for a time, times, and half a time.

This is a reference to the antichrist (see related subject). The timing of this prophesy is the final half week before the return of Christ (see three and one half years). In Revelation 12 we see the woman being protected in the wilderness for this period, so the saints available to this person would be “the rest of her children” referenced in Rev 12:17. This would also tie in with the courtyard Christians of Rev 11, who would be “trampled underfoot by the gentiles” for three and a half years.

I might suggest that these courtyard Christians represented the five foolish virgins who weren’t prepared for the wedding feast, the “30” of the 30-60-100 fold believers, or the wood, hay, and stubble mentioned by Paul in 1Corinthians versus the gold, silver, and precious stones.

Dan 11:32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he pervert by flatteries; but the people that know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. 33 And they that are wise among the people shall instruct many; yet they shall fall by the sword and by flame, by captivity and by spoil, many days. 34 Now when they shall fall, they shall be helped with a little help; but many shall join themselves unto them with flatteries. 35 And some of them that are wise shall fall, to refine them, and to purify, and to make them white, even to the time of the end; because it is yet for the time appointed.

Much is said about persecution of God’s people throughout the Bible, and there are those who survive and those who don’t; and those who repent of their failures and those who do not. The historical context of these verses precludes them from being at the very end of the age. This is because in Daniel 11:40-45 we find these are actions of a king of the North moving powerfully in the Mideast, but the fact that no mention is made of God personally judging and putting an end to him precludes him from being the antichrist.

Mat 24:10 And then shall many stumble, and shall deliver up one another, and shall hate one another. 11 And many false prophets shall arise, and shall lead many astray. 12 And because iniquity shall be multiplied, the love of the many shall wax cold.

Here again, believers are sorted out and tested by the environments in which they grow. When a culture is cauterized by sin, love suffers.

In the parable of the sower we see seeds sprouting, but failing under tests as those with shallow roots yield to various trials, and those among the weeds being distracted by other interests. Then there are those who overcome these obstacles and temptations and go on to become fruitful.

2Thes 2:2 to the end that ye be not quickly shaken from your mind, nor yet be troubled, either by spirit, or by word, or by epistle as from us, as that the day of the Lord is just at hand; 3 let no man beguile you in any wise: for it will not be, except the falling away come first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition,

Here Paul defines the apostasy of believers as one of the things that will become prominent as believers succumb to increasing persecution. The decadence of the final empire of Daniel 2 will allow it to disintegrate into civil war and bloodshed, as spoken of in Daniel 7, and the second seal of Revelation 6.

Paul also speaks of this in **1Tim 4:1 But the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 through the hypocrisy of men that speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron;**

Finally, in Christ’s letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3, seven different issues are brought up that can diminish the vitality and cause some believers to stumble. It is reassuring that in each of these there are “he who overcomes” clauses that enable some (hopefully most) within each group to continue their Christian growth.

1. At Ephesus some had gotten caught up in good works to the point that love – the first and greatest commandment – had become a lesser priority.
2. At Smyrna, intense persecution was a challenge.
3. Pergamum had a couple of doctrinal issues to deal with.
4. Thyatira had been infiltrated by a false prophetess who was teaching immorality.
5. Sardis had become satisfied with their popularity (a megachurch perhaps), and ceased to grow.
6. The church at Philadelphia was challenged to persevere and move forwards in the face of fake believers, and to go forwards into the opportunities that God was placing before them.
7. Laodiceans had become status with their status quo and considered themselves to have arrived, but had failed to become intimate and open before God.

The commonality with all this is that we must daily listen to and obey God, and to continue to pursue God’s interests even as history trudges forwards towards the final hours.

10 Protection of saints [\(top\)](#)

Is 26:20, Dan 7:20-21,25-27, 11:28,32-35, Mat 6:31-33,Mat 13:37-43, Mat 24:4-11,15-22,23-24,26,
2Pet 2:5-9, Rev9:1-4

Historically, the most dramatic example of God protecting his people in the midst of plagues, was during the exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt. There are multiple additional examples scattered throughout the Bible where we see tribulation from God selectively weeding out the tares from among the wheat (Mat 13:37-43), while sparing and protecting his people from among them. Many of these are included in scriptures relating to the final periods of history. In Revelation 9:1-4 we are given an example of a tribulation plague that only attacks nonbelievers.

Lawless one prevails	Dan 7:21,25
Saints are given the kingdom	Dan 7:22,26-27
God warns the saints of danger	Mat 24:4-11,23-24,26
God warns the saints to flee	Isaiah 26:20, Mat 24:15-22
God provides for his people	Mat 6:31-33, Rev 12:6
God protects saints	2Pet 2:5-9, Rev 9:1-4, Rev 12:5-6,14

Is 26:20 Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

Dan 7:20and concerning the ten horns that were on its head, and the other *horn* which came up, and before which three fell, even that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake great things, whose look was more stout than its fellows. 21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; 22until

the ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High, and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time. 26 But the judgment shall be set, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. 27 And the kingdom and the dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High: his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Mat 6:31 Be not therefore anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32 For after all these things do the Gentiles seek; for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. 33 But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2Pet 2:5 and spared not the ancient world, but preserved Noah with seven others, a preacher of righteousness, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; 6 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, having made them an example unto those that should live ungodly; 7 and delivered righteous Lot, sore distressed by the lascivious life of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed *his* righteous soul from day to day with *their* lawless deeds); 9 the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment unto the day of judgment;

11 Three and a half years [\(top\)](#)

Dan 7:25, 9:27, 12:6-7,11,12,Rev.11:2,3,12:6,14,13:5

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High; and he shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and half a time.

It is well understood that the saints mentioned in this verse are Christians. Since the church did not exist before the death and resurrection of Jesus, this three and a half year period would have to be the second half of the seventieth week prophesied in Daniel chapter 9.

9:27 And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease; and upon the wing of abominations' shall come one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate.

This speaks of the first half of a week. The only single week spoken of in the context of Daniel chapter 9 is the difference between the seventy weeks and the sixty nine weeks. It is rarely disputed that the sixty nine weeks terminate in the appearance of the Messiah. At least four or more verses in the gospels indicate that Jesus appeared as the Messiah at the outset of his ministry, whereas there are no verses to suggest that he was not the Messiah before the time that a fickle crowd welcomed him into Jerusalem – less than a week before his death.

There is no record of the antichrist making a covenant of any kind, and certainly nothing to imply that he makes a covenant with Israel. When Jesus was crucified, and spoke the words “It is finished,” and the veil of the temple was torn top to bottom, the entire history of prophetic blood sacrifice was fulfilled and came to a close. Any blood sacrifice since then is a claim that the blood of Jesus had no value, and is the ultimate blasphemy. The blasphemy of the Jews as they re-sewed the veil and continued to splatter blood around was an abomination that required (and resulted in) the obliteration of the temple and the Jewish nation.

It was Jesus who removed the spiritual significance of blood sacrifice, and the Roman government was the hammer ordained to eliminate it physically.

There are two different people mentioned in verse 9:27 – one who put a stop to sacrifice and oblation, and one who made Jerusalem desolate.

Dan 12:6. And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?

The referenced “wonders” in verses 1-5 included extreme tribulation, protection of God’s people, and widespread evangelism,.

12:7. And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and a half; and when they have made an end of breaking in pieces the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

3-1/2 years

12:11. And from the time that the continual burnt-offering' shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand and two hundred and ninety days.

$1290/365=3.534$ years – 3-1/2 years plus 12.4 days

12. Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.

$1335/365=3.658$ years – 3 years and 240 days (8 months) 3-1/2 years plus 58 days

Rev 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that there they may nourish her a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

$1260/365=3.452$ years – 17.5 days less than 3.5 years

1265 days = 3.465 years. That’s about 13 days less than 3.5 years.

12 End of sacrifice [\(top\)](#)

Dan 8:11-13, 9:26-27, 11:31, 12:11

San 8:11. Yea, it magnified itself, even to the prince of the host; and it took away from him the continual burnt-offering , and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.

8:12. And the host was given over to it together with the continual burnt offering through transgression; and it cast down truth to the ground, and it did its pleasure and prospered.

The prince of the host is translated from commander of an army. These verses also speak of the physical destruction of the temple, along with associated military forces and rituals.

Those who might debate this understanding will find more clarity in cross referencing related verses.

Dan 9:27. And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease; and upon the wing of abominations' shall come one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate.

All the ritual sacrifice from the days of Adam were fulfilled and rendered obsolete by Jesus when He was sacrificed. Blood sacrifice since that time is an abomination because it declares that the blood of Jesus was not enough. When the Romans obliterated the temple and the Jewish people in 70AD, they put an end to this abomination with the sacrifice of a pig on the altar as a grand finale.

Dan 11:31. And forces shall stand on his part, and they shall profane the sanctuary, even the fortress, and shall take away the continual burnt-offering , and they shall set up the abomination that maketh desolate.

This is a reference to the lingering temple rituals and facilities that were rendered obsolete and abominable by the death, resurrection, and victory of Jesus.

13 Abomination, Desolation [\(top\)](#)

Dan 8:9-14, Dan 9:2,18,26-27, Dan 11:31, 12:11, Mt 24:15 Mark 13:14

The rise of Rome

Dan 8:9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the glorious *land*. **10** And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and some of the host and of the stars it cast down to the ground, and trampled upon them.

In Dan 8:20-22, we see that this horn is one of the four that replaced Alexander the great, and looking back upon secular history, we see that this next world power, was Rome

Dan 8:11 Yea, it magnified itself, even to the prince of the host; and it took away from him the continual *burnt-offering*, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. **12** And the host was given over *to it* together with the continual *burnt-offering* through transgression; and it cast down truth to the ground, and it did *its pleasure* and prospered.

The Israeli nation, the temple and its rituals were destroyed because of Israel's disobedience (transgressions) to God, and was obliterated by Rome.

Dan 8:13 Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said unto that certain one who spake, How long shall be the vision *concerning the continual burnt-offering*, and the transgression that maketh desolate, to give both the sanctuary and the host to be trodden under foot?

This verse repeats the burnt offering and transgression in verse 12, and refers to the judgment as a period of desolation.

Dan 8:14 And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred evenings *and mornings*; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

I am puzzled by this number, and could use a little help from almost anyone with expertise in Hebrew. When I looked up the actual words, in a concordance, it very clearly came out as 1,300 days, which would equal 3.56 years. (2300 would equal 6.30 years, a number referenced nowhere else in the Bible). On the other hand, 3.5 years fits with other references that speak of 3.5 years of judgment.

There is however a seven year period defined in Daniel 9:24 and 25, that begins with the arrival of the Messiah (as announced by John the baptist and related verses).

Dan 9:26 is repeated in 9:27, with a couple of additional details. Both begin with the sixty ninth week, speak of two people or forces, and are broken by events.

Dan 9:26 And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off, and shall have nothing; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war; desolations are decreed.

9:27. And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease; and upon the wing of abominations shall come one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate.

After three and one half years of ministry Jesus was sacrificed, and the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom by God. Any blood sacrifice after this point would be a declaration that the blood of Jesus was not enough. Jesus put an end to the validity of all blood sacrifice, making any further such practice a horrific abomination. Isaiah spoke of a time when one who sacrificed a lamb would be like one who breaks a dog's neck. So it was Jesus who put an end to the spiritual significance of sacrifice, and its continued practice by the Jews became an abomination that was rewarded by the obliteration and desolation of the temple, Jerusalem, and the Jewish nation. If a further correlation is needed; Jesus told the religious leaders that all the blood from that of Able to Zachariah would be charged against that generation.

15 Messiah [\(top\)](#)

Dan 9:25-27, Mat 26:63-64 John 1:33,41, 4:25-26,42

Dan 9:24. Seventy weeks are decreed upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy.

9:25. Know therefore and discern, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the anointed one, the prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: it shall be built again, with street and moat, even in troublous times.

Verse 25 adds up to 69 weeks. This leaves one week to achieve the milestones specified list given in Dan 9:24

9:26. And after the threescore and two weeks shall the anointed one be cut off, and shall have nothing; and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and even unto the end shall be war; desolations are determined.

The “Anointed one” is the word rendered “Messiah” in most translations.

We know that Jesus was not cut off on the day he became public as the Messiah upon the baptism of John. Multiple New Testament verses define that event as his arrival as the Messiah. The New Testament also reveals that he was cut off 3-1/2 years later upon his crucifixion. The word translated as “nothing” in verse 26 also means “no one” (the sheep scattered at that point).

A group – forces – of a ruler who would be in power would arise at some point after the Messiah was crucified, and obliterate the city and the temple, and even to the end, the desolations would continue. We know historically that the city and the temple were physically destroyed at about 70 AD.

9:27. And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease; and upon the wing of abominations' shall come one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate.

There is nothing in text or history to suggest that the people who sacked Jerusalem in verse 9:26 made a covenant of any kind with Jerusalem before hand. The context would indicate that it was the Messiah who made the covenant, but that would raise the question: Why would he stop the sacrifice?

When Jesus was sacrificed, it fulfilled all that had been achieved through all the sacrifices until that point. To sacrifice after that time would be to say that the blood of Jesus meant nothing. There could be no greater insult to the one through whom the universe and all it contained than to claim that his torturous humility and death on our behalf meant nothing. Also recall that at that point the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom. In **Isaiah 66:3a** the prophet said **“But the one who slaughters an ox is like one who kills a person; The one who sacrifices a lamb is like one who breaks a dog’s neck;”**

It was Jesus who put an end to sacrifice spiritually. The Roman army stopped it physically, and then Islam took over the watch before the Jews were able to get their country back.

In a nutshell, verse 27 is a repeat of verse 26, with different features highlighted. The question now arises: What has happened to the other half of this seventieth week?

17 Tribulation [\(top\)](#)

Dan 12:1-3, Mat 24:6-8,15-24, Mark 7:8 Mark 13:14-20 Lk 21:10-11,25-26, 1Thes 5:2-3 Rev 6:3-8,12-17,8:7-13, 9:1-21,11;5-6,13,16, 12:12,17

Overview of prophesied phases

I'm not going to make a "Thus saith the Lord" statement here, but do consider: Sequences of three levels of intensity and value permeate the Bible. Jesus describes productive believers as thirty, sixty, and hundred-fold. The tabernacle consisted of a courtyard, a holy place, and the holy of holies. In Revelation 12 we see this woman (arguably by some as either Israel, or the church) manifesting as the manchild, herself, and the rest of her children. As we study tribulation in the Bible we also see three levels. These would be the church age, a transition period, and a climactic three and one half years.

In phase one we see the church age -- beginning with Pentecost -- fraught with deceptions, persecutions, natural disasters, and global unrest. This period is also seasoned with instances of supernatural signs and wonders, of both Christian and satanic origins.

We then have a transitional period initiated by the opening of the first seal with the rise of the fifth and final empire mentioned in Daniel Chapter 2. In Daniel it is represented as a combination of iron and clay, and three times within this description it is pointed out that it is unstable. Historically, we can recognize the first four of five prophesied empires as Babylon, Medea-Persia, Greece, and Rome. At some point during this fifth and final empire it will disintegrate into bloodshed and chaos, and the natural results of famine and disease. This period will also be filled with intensifying natural and supernatural disasters that will combine with the seals to decimate half of the world's population. There is no time period specified for this transitional period (although there is a five month period mentioned within it in Revelation chapter 9).

Finally, we have the climactic three and one half year period during which the antichrist and Satan himself will have full control of the government -- albeit inconvenienced by yet another level of supernatural calamity. Various aspects of this period are described in Revelation chapters 11, 12, and 13. A key tie-in of these overlays is the courtyard Christians of chapter 11 to be trampled underfoot for 3-1/2 years, and the 3-1/2 years in Revelation 12 where Satan is allowed to make war with some of the saints.

Phase one: Beginning signs

When "last times" are spoken of in the New Testament, it is most often a reference to either what they are currently beginning to experience, or that which is about to happen. John plainly expresses this in: **1John 2:18 Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be evident that they all are not of us.**

John was describing then-current conditions. So far, this "last hour" has lasted for over 2,000 years.

In Acts 2:7 Peter explains the Pentecostal phenomenon as that which was prophesied in Joel, which was to take place in the last days. Hebrews 1:2 defines the the end current era as last days.

Consider also:

1Tim 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,

The context of this verse is in reference to things that were already beginning to happen as Paul was writing, and he is giving Timothy instructions on how to deal with them.

Jude 17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, 18 that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.” 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

This letter was written to warn about false saints who had by then infiltrated the church. Verse 19 confirms that the context of verses 17-19 was at that time present tense. Verses 17 & 18 speak of these things as fulfilling prophesies proclaimed by the apostles less than a generation before. In reading the entire letter it is impossible to avoid the fact that it was dealing with problems that existed at that time.

It is evident from these three scriptures (and likely more) that "last days" by these definitions have continued to and through the present times.

Jesus begins his prophetic dissertation by warning of the soon rise of posers and deceivers.

Mat 24:3 And as he sat on the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what *shall be* the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

Although the disciples asked three specific questions, Jesus goes well beyond the specifics to paint a broader picture. Jesus began to instruct the disciples and us on things to come, and telling us how to navigate through them. He briefly touches upon the calamity to befall Jerusalem and the temple in verses 15 thru 20, and then speaks of the future of mankind terminating in extreme tribulation.

Verses 23 thru 31 give a linear sequence of events that would repeat and expand upon the warnings of verses 4 and 5.

24:4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man lead you astray. 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am the Christ; and shall lead many astray.

These began to arise soon after his ascension and the birth of the church -- for instance: Almost immediately after the church was scattered by persecution, such a person (who called himself “Barjesus”) was discovered in Samaria.

Jesus then broadens the picture to include things that will be relevant to believers later in the church age.

24:6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled: for *these things* must needs come to pass; but the end is not yet.

Jesus returns to speaking of Jerusalem and environs until verse 15. In verses 21 & 22, Jesus speaks of the climactic finale of tribulation. But he then reiterates the warnings about the deception and satanic miracles in verses 23 through 26, that will continue in the meantime.

Mat 24:23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is the Christ, or, Here; believe *it* not. 24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. 25 Behold, I have told you beforehand. 26 If therefore they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the wilderness; go not forth: Behold, he is in the inner chambers; believe *it* not.

In Revelation 2:20 John warns about a false prophetess who is active during the actual time when he is writing.

Rev 2:20 But I have *this* against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.

In Matt 24:14, after describing times of persecution, tribulations and chaos in verses 5 thru 13, Jesus describes the end as coming after the world has been completely evangelized -- everyone will have had a chance to hear the gospel. Luke 21:9-26 also speaks of wars, revolts, and other calamities that will continue to build until the time of the very end. So although this type of thing will continue into the end of the age, it has been going on since New Testament times.

Phase two: Transition; the end begins

In Revelation 5 the throne room of God is buzzing with anticipation. God the Father has written the remaining future of humanity, and now holds the revelation of this future in His hand. In John 1 we find that Jesus is the Word – the expression of God. In Colossians we see Jesus as having been the agent of the creation of all things, both spiritual and natural. And now the Father holds a new chapter of future events to be expressed.

In this scene there are also bowls of incense representing the prayers of the saints. These prayers are doubtless instrumental in bringing about these judgments, as are plaintiffs in a courtroom. The judge of the universe has reached a decision, and the seven-part sentence has been recorded in a scroll sealed by seven seals. Each of these seals deals with a different level and category of cleanup. Until then, events contained will be restrained by various categories of authority, that only Jesus can open. God has revealed many of these details to his saints in the past, but their future fulfillment will begin with the opening of the first seal in Revelation 6.

The first seal is opened, and the entire world is brought under the control of a single government. This will be the fifth and final empire of the statue seen in the night vision of king Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel chapter 2. There it mentions three times that this kingdom will be an unstable mixture of interests. In Daniel 7:7, where it is described as a beast that conquers all and tramples down what it cannot otherwise subdue, we read that it will consist of ten regions or areas of authority. Although there will be instability and conflict, this global authority will be able to enforce an uneasy peace – for awhile.

The second seal is opened, In Daniel 7:8, 20, 24, we see that a coup shatters the uneasy peace. The hostility of this new leadership towards God's people brings the kingdom of God to bear upon the iron and clay toes of the statue seen by king Nebuchadnezzar. The ensuing civil war removes all restraints separating global enemies. Warlords politicians, and military units scramble for control and protection. The statue of Daniel 2 is now being ground to powder. Keep in mind, that this seal is opened by Jesus Himself.

The opening of third seal plays out as the natural results of a world focused upon war, struggles to find and produce food in a world of devastated infrastructures.

The fourth seal brings death, as famine, warfare, disease, and roving packs of predators arise to feast upon the chaos. All told, a fourth of humanity will be decimated through these natural outcomes of unregulated human behavior.

Dan 9:11“Indeed, all Israel has violated Your Law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice; so the curse has gushed forth on us, along with the oath which is written in the Law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against Him.

The fifth seal honors those killed for their faith – This reveals the reasons for the judgments, and a promise that there are more to come. In Daniel 7:21, 22, 24, and 25 we find that the usurper of the second seal violently targets God's people.

The sixth seal convulses the world in natural disasters. (Rev.6:12) Some might attribute the events in Revelation 6:12-17 to coincidences of nature, but verses 16 and 17 show that many will recognize them as being of supernatural origin.

With the opening of the seventh seal (Rev.8:1) the prayers of living saints are also considered. These would be added to the prayers of the saints under the altar.

Rev 8:3 Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense ascended from the angel's hand with the prayers of the saints before God. 5 Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and hurled it to the earth; and there were peals of thunder and sounds, and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

It is interesting that when the smoke of the already burning incense in Rev 8:4 reaches heaven, an angel adds fire from the altar, and propels it back down to earth. This activates the seven angels with seven trumpets to respond to the prayers of the saints with further judgments upon those persecuting them. This brings on a new league of tribulations. One third of the vegetation is destroyed by fire (first trumpet); one third of the sea life is destroyed (second trumpet); one third of the fresh water is poisoned (third trumpet); natural lighting from sun, moon, and stars is dimmed by one third (fourth trumpet).

I have assumed that there would be localized thirds of the earth targeted by these devastations, but I've come to allow in some cases that they might be more thinly scattered throughout the globe – just a thought. This would allow for enclaves of survivors throughout the world. Also keep in mind that these are judgments upon a world that has persecuted saints, not upon the saints themselves.

After these first four trumpets we face an escalation of intensity in the plagues. The next two trumpets are very clearly of supernatural origin.

Rev 8:13 And I saw, and I heard an eagle, flying in mid heaven, saying with a great voice, Woe, woe, woe, for them that dwell on the earth, by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, who are yet to sound.

The fifth trumpet brings on a plague of torment, but not death. Furthermore, it specifically targets nonbelievers. As a limited time offer, this would continue only for five months.

The sixth trumpet brings on a world war that will kill a full third of remaining humanity. When we recall that a fourth of humanity will have been eliminated by the end of the fourth seal, taking a third of what's left will leave us with just half the population we had when the first seal was opened – plus there have been quite a few deaths from other plagues along the way.

There are a couple of suspiciously coincidental things about the army that achieves all this: For one thing, their colors are red and yellow, as is the communist china flag. Secondly, they come from the East. Thirdly, there would be two hundred million warriors. This would have been slightly more than the population of the entire world at the time this was written, but in the early sixties Mao Tse Tung boasted that he could field an army of two hundred million. Hopefully the draft will not be enforced by that time but we'll just have to wait and see.

Phase three: The final blow

We're going to have to wait a little for this seventh trumpet.

Rev 10:7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He announced to His servants the prophets.

Note that a time period is designated here defined as days (plural) that leads up to the actual sounding of the seventh and final trumpet. By the time that trumpet sounds, all mystery will have been cleared up and reality will be obvious to all.

Rev 10:11 And they *said to me, "You must prophesy again concerning many peoples, nations, languages, and kings."

John had been faithful in the things he was told write in the first chapter of Revelation, but here he is given a new commission. After all these plagues etcetera, there remain activities to take place involving

the remnants of humanity and governments. We are herein faced with the final phase of the cleanup of mankind's misbehavior since the fall.

In Revelation chapter eleven we read of a three and a half year period culminating in the seventh and final trumpet, that will complete God's judgments upon mankind living upon the earth. This period is subject to whatever plagues are deemed necessary as God speaks through his witnesses into the natural realm.

Rev 11:16 These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.

Daniel chapter one prophesied that the archangel Michael would go into action at the outset of this period

Dan 12:1. And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince who standeth for the children of thy people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Revelation 12 also speaks of Michael engaging at this point.

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels *going forth* to war with the dragon; and the dragon warred and his angels; **8** and they prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven.

At this point, Satan is driven out of the seat of heavenly authority that he had conned out of Adam and Eve. In the gospels, even Jesus referred to Satan as the god of this world. When Satan was trying to offer Jesus all the kingdoms of the world during the initial temptation, he mentioned that the kingdoms had been handed over to him and he could give them to whomever he wished. Jesus didn't question this claim, he only told Satan to shut up.

So now we see one furious serpent with zero legitimate authority, but having a boiling mixture of rage and power. He then makes a furious charge at the woman – however:

Rev 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that there they may nourish her a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Rev 12:14 And there were given to the woman the two wings of the great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness unto her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. **15** And the serpent cast out of his mouth after the woman water as a river, that he might cause her to be carried away by the stream. **16** And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth and swallowed up the river which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

During Satan's reign over mankind he had enjoyed the authority over the earth that had been given to Adam and Eve. But now this authority has been returned to the saints during these final three and one half years.

So now the dragon is shooting blanks. He tried to go after the woman, but the earth – now under the authority of the saints – swallows his army.

But then, the dragon looks around, and licks his chops as he spots the courtyard Christians of chapter eleven. These he will toy with for the next three and one half years. But he'd better not waste too much time; these folks just might start preaching.

Rev 12:17 And the dragon waxed wrath with the woman, and went away to make war with the rest of her seed, that keep the commandments of God, and hold the testimony of Jesus:

18 Evangelism [\(top\)](#)

Dan 11:33, Dan 12:3 Mat 10:18-20 Mat 24:14 Mark 13:9-11 Luk 21:12-15 Ac 1:8 Ac 2:21

Mat 10:18 and you will even be brought before governors and kings on My account, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. **19** But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given you in that hour. **20** For it is not you who are speaking, but *it is* the Spirit of your Father who is speaking in you.

Mark 13:9 But take ye heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in synagogues shall ye be beaten; and before governors and kings shall ye stand for my sake, for a testimony unto them. **10** And the gospel must first be preached unto all the nations. **11** And when they lead you *to judgment*, and deliver you up, be not anxious beforehand what ye shall speak: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye; for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Lk 21:12 But before all these things, they shall lay their hands on you, and shall persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for my name's sake. **13** It shall turn out unto you for a testimony. **14** Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate beforehand how to answer: **15** for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to withstand or to gainsay. Persecution will provide an opportunity to evangelize the government (the apostle Paul did this).

Dan 11:33 “And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for *many* days.

People will be spreading the gospel while they are being persecuted.

Dan 12:1 “Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. **2** And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt. **3** And those who have insight will shine like the glow of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Christians will be evangelizing during the final and most intense period of tribulation.

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come.

Ac 1:8 But ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Evangelism will take place until the end.

Ac 2:21 **20** The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the day of the Lord come, That great and notable *day*: **21** And it shall be, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Salvation will remain available until the very very last.