

The Rapture Revealed

(A very short version)



As found in the Bible

(The actual Event is hidden in plain sight – read on)

Has the Tribulation begun?

Are the SEALS of Revelation being broken?

Has the church finished fulfilling the great commission of Jesus Christ?

Will you make it to heaven in the Rapture?

Why does it matter?

Why does it matter?



Why does it matter “when” the tribulation starts or “when” Christians are to be raptured into heavens?

- It matters because being ready for His Return is proof of True Christianity and only a True Believer in Christ will be guaranteed to join Christ at the sound of His Great Trumpet call and escape the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord.
- It matters because being ready requires believing and doing what He has instructed us to do in preparation for His return
- It matters because He has warned that “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles? And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’
- It matters because many Christians are sitting idly waiting for an event that has already begun and they are not DOING what He told them to do and therefore are in grave danger
- It matters because some of our family, friends and neighbors are completely unaware or just don’t believe that Christ will return and God’s final judgments will sentence them to outer darkness.

*Because, as Christians, our faith, our convictions and our behavior
Are speaking louder than our words*

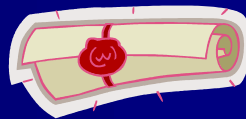
Have we entered the Seal Judgments of the book of Revelation?

I have been a Practicing Christian since 1977. I have heard the doctrine of the “Rapture” preached and discussed over the last 36 years. I have studied the subject while taking classes in Bible College. The entire matter is confusing and difficult to understand. But, thanks to this very complexity, I have been able to ignore the controversies and the biblical inconsistencies. I had no choice. It was too complicated. So, I just accepted the prevalent teaching of my denomination: The rapture will happen at the sound of a heavenly trumpet and if I am a Christian I will be miraculously snatched up into heaven ‘in a twinkling of an eye’. Matter closed. Or is it closed?

In 1996 a pastor and friend asked me to co-teach a class about the ‘rapture’ and the biblical tribulation. I was instructed to teach from the position of ‘pre-tribulation rapture’ and my friend would teach on ‘post tribulation rapture’. It took me one year to prepare. That year was the genesis that fixed my view on the rapture, and it was different than I expected. Over the next 19 years my view matured and has galvanized into a certainty. And that certainty has developed into an “Urgency”.

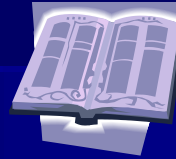
I am certain that we have already entered the Seal Judgments and most Christians are not ready for what is coming.

The Seal Judgments of the book of Revelation



Interestingly, the idea or doctrine of a biblical 'Rapture' was introduced and made popular in the early 1900's. Since that time, most doctrines of eschatology (the study of Biblical End Times) have been constructed to fit particular denominational belief systems. So, it is no wonder that there are multiple views of the timing of the rapture and the tribulation period. The plain language of the bible has been rearranged to fit certain denominational belief systems, so, most views of the rapture have become impossibly confusing and irrational.

**If we follow Biblical reason, then
The facts, timing and warnings related to biblical eschatology
begin to make sense.**



If the subject of the Rapture and a seven year Tribulation are kept in context of the entire Bible and, whenever possible, are taken at face-value, an amazingly clear picture emerges. The Bible teaches and warns about

- A “tribulation period”, also known as “Times of Distress” followed by
- “A GREAT TRUMPET sounding” and “GATHER(ing) TOGETHER (of) His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other”, followed by
- “A Great Tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.”, also known as the “Wrath of the Lamb” or the “Great and Terrible Day of the Lord”

And, since the Bible is meant to address *every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues* the events addressed by the coming tribulation are global in scope. So, it would appear the first Seal of Revelation has been broken (as early as the early 1900’s; World War I began in 1914). If we hear the words of Jesus and follow the evidence, the facts, the timing and the warnings of the coming Rapture and Tribulation begin to make sense.

*Evangelical Christians have been taught that they will be ‘Raptured’ from the earth
before the tribulation begins
with the breaking of the first Seal of the Book of Revelation.*



Many churches teach that to become a Christian all one has to do is to make a simple statement of faith. Then, they may sit back, assured of being raptured and going to heaven before the first Seal of the Tribulation is broken thereby spared the discomfort of the tribulation.

But is that proof enough? What about repentance from the former life? What about being transformed in our thinking and practice and following the life of Jesus, now?

The tenth chapter of the book of Romans tells us “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness (right living), and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

That salvation reveals a transformation in attitude and behavior which is the same as Jesus Christ.

If our attitude and behavior are anything less than that of Christ, we must consider the consequences.

There are many apparent contradictions regarding the doctrine of the Rapture and the Tribulation and much debate. So, what does the bible actually say about this End of Days?

More specifically, what did Jesus tell His disciples and the rest of the listening and believing world what about what is coming?

What ~~we can~~ expect to happen? What are we to do in order to ‘get ready’ and ‘stay ready’ until He returns to claim His Church?

We must turn to the Bible to find our answers.

The Bible says it is “God Breathed” and useful. (All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 2 Timothy 3:16).

God did not write or ‘breathe’ His message to us in an unintelligible or useless language. God has spoken through His prophets and His written Word and He meant for us to be able to understand what He says.

If you can put aside doctrinal and theological constraints that have sprung from denominational differences, you may get a clearer understanding of this subject.

Jesus’ disciples were asking some of the very same questions we are asking today (Matthew 24:3) "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?"

Then Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. "For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many.” Matt 24:4

I see two things here that give a starting point in our discussions and preparations and a way to adjust our “2020 thinking” to Jesus’ intent. (I wrote this in 2013)

1. We are to be careful about deception regarding these matters. There are many voices giving advice. Jesus is saying, by “stay focused on My Word”. As we engage in this End Times warfare, the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. We do that by keeping a biblical view and *keep the scriptures we are studying in context of the entire bible teaching*.
2. It is easy to spot some nutcase saying “Hey, over here! I’m Jesus! I’m back! Listen and follow me!!” Very few Christians would fall for that. But institutional deception is a problem. There is a brand of Christianity and church in this 21st century (a reemergence of Gnosticism and mysticism) that is far from the Truth and is not the body of Christ. It takes forms of commercialism or that of a narcissistic religion. It is a fake. It is not the “Christianity” of Jesus Christ. AND MANY ARE BEING MISLEAD.

With this in mind, we must clear some of the non-biblical religious clutter of tradition, lore and attitudes of the 19th, 20th and 21st century the institutional church has invented.

The dominant teaching among Evangelicals and Protestants is that of a Pre-tribulation Rapture. I agree that Christians can expect God to rescue or ‘rapture’ the church away from earth before The Wrath of the Lamb or the Great Tribulation. But, the bible is also clear that the church is to be purged, cleansed, purified and redeemed before being ‘raptured’.

We must question WHEN the seven years of the Great Tribulation begins.

We have been taught and it has been generally accepted as doctrine that the tribulation period starts with the breaking of the FIRST SEAL found in Revelation 6:1.

What is found in Scriptures?

I question the distinctions the bible makes regarding uses of the words “tribulation”, the “Great Tribulation”, the “Wrath of the Lamb”, the “times of distress”, and the “times of sorrow”. And I believe these distinctions are important for our understanding of the timing of these events and for our preparedness. *And, “a marker” is found in Acts 2.*

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT – WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

It is important because the context with which we see the uses and meanings of these words and the timing of these events affect our attitudes and our motivation for GETTING and STAYING READY for His return.

Many Christians think that they have done all that is necessary to GET READY for Christ's return and will either go to heaven or be "raptured" from the earth before the tribulation period because they...

- Walked the aisle at church,
- filled out a commitment card
- announced I AM A BELIVER.

They believe they are saved and nothing more is necessary. Became a member of a local church. They tithe some small portion of their income, they get involved in the local church activities, going on a missions trip or any combination of good works.

But is this correct?

Is this what Jesus and the bible say? We must see and understand what Jesus and the bible says about the coming Great Day of Wrath, The Great Tribulation and what it really means to GET READY and STAY READY and know WHY these things are urgent and important.

So, I will propose, for clarity, the chronological placement of the events of The Great Tribulation in relation to tribulation EVENTS described by Jesus and John the Revelator, and what Jesus and His Word says about getting ready!

The placement of the GREAT TRIBULATION event can be seen in other places in the bible, but I will focus on the books of Matthew and Revelation.

*Our goal is to discover
Where we are in relation to His Return
WHY we are running out of time and*

*WHAT we should be doing, as Christians, preparing for the End of Days Events and
HIS Return.*

The first step in preparation, if you have never taken it, is to be born again. That is, come to Jesus Christ in a humble surrender of your life to Him. He will, in turn, come into your life and lead you to leave your 'old life' behind, that is your old way of thinking and behaving. He will renew your Spirit that will allow you to transform your mind and that will empower you from the inside out. It will revolutionize everything about what you believe, how you think and how you live life. You will find forgiveness of every past deed and get a fresh new, and exciting, start in life.

2. Pray. Search for Him in prayer. Start praying daily. Just go to Him and pray. He will guide you.
3. Read the bible. Daily. He will guide you.
4. Take this one step at a time.

If you are already a Christian, please carefully consider what is being presented. My wife recently told me she is unsure about the "Storehouse" concept of preparation. I responded, "That's OK. Do what God is leading you to DO in preparation of His return." She said, "Yes. I need to do what He said to do. For now let's do this." The point is, He is coming and He has said to get ready!

Before we start let's look at an event which is recorded in Acts Chapter 2, at Pentecost. This will give us a firm starting point on which to build a timeline for the breaking of the Tribulation Seals, the Tribulation Trumpets and the pouring out of the Tribulation Bowls of Wrath. Here the Apostle Peter's declaration:

Pentecost

Acts 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. **2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The People's Response

v5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. **6** And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. **7** Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?" **8** And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own [c]language in which we were born? **9** Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and [d]Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." **12** So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" **13** Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

Peter's Declaration

Acst2:14-16

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. **15** For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is *only* the third hour of the day.

16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

(Go to the next page for an amazing discovery)



Acts 2:16 *But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*

17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.

18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;
And they shall prophesy.

19 I will show wonders in heaven above
And signs in the earth beneath:
Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

20 *The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.*

21 *And it shall come to pass
That whoever calls on the name of the Lord
Shall be saved.'*

Peter is telling us that the prophecy in Joel 2:28-32 has come to pass at Pentecost, in the year AD 1.

Here is the Tribulation Timeline, in summary:

1. The '*tribulation period of birth pangs*' (*Matthew 24:8 & Revelation 6*) begins with the breaking of the the 1st Tribulation Seal and continues through the the 5th Tribulation Seal, during which time we will see the Apostasy, the great persecution of Christians, the revealing of the man of perdition and the signing of a peace treaty between Israel and her enemies.

The 1st Seal of the tribulation was being broken just after the death and resurrection of Christ and the succeeding seals (Seals 2 - 5) have been broken at various periods of time since AD 1 and that we have now entered the time of the breaking 5th Tribulation Seal. Jesus refers to this period, the breaking of the tribulation Seals ONE through FIVE as "the beginning of the birth pangs", and He points out that "this is not yet the end".

2. Then, with the breaking of the 6th Tribulation Seal, *THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD, THE GREAT TRIBULATION, BEGINS.* (*Matthew 24:29, & Revelation 6:12*)

As witnessed by, Matthew 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory. 31 "And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other."

3. The "*7 years of Great Tribulation*" (aka Daniels 70th week) begins with the breaking of the 6th tribulation seal, will reach the mid-point of the tribulation period, (after 3.5 years) with the sounding of the 6th Trumpet of the Great Tribulation.

4. Then, the Great Tribulation will end with the pouring out of the 7 Bowls of Wrath.

Tribulation Judgments lead to the End of the Age (Concern yourself with the first 6 Seals):

Revelation Ch. 6 - Matthew Chapter 24

the 1st Tribulation Seal - International (Global) conquest and political intrigue

the 2nd Tribulation Seal - Wars and Rumors of War

the 3rd Tribulation Seal - Famine

the 4th Tribulation Seal - Death

the 5th Tribulation Seal - Martyrs, persecution, revealing of the Anti-Christ, the great falling away (apostasy)..

The Opening of the 6th Tribulation Seal
is the
The BEGINNING OF the 7 years of
"THE GREAT TRIBULATION"

the 6th Tribulation Seal - Cosmic disturbances, blood moon, darkened sun, terror, calamity (*Matthew 24:29, Revelation 6:12*)

During the period of the Breaking of the 6th Tribulation Seal:

- The Rapture
- Multitude from the tribulation before the Throne of God
- Sealing of the 144,000

Now, let's go into a little detail the End of Days, comparing and confirming Jesus' account in the book of Revelation and the book of Matthew.

FIRST EVENT from MATTHEW



Jesus says *"You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars Matt 24:6 (also see Rev 6:1) . See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, **but that is not yet the end.**"*

We have been lead to view these events from a nationalistic perspective. In other words, if it's happening in the USA it must be true. But we should watch for world events with a focus in Israel.

Also, notice that Jesus instructed, **"but that is not yet the end"**.

This FIRST EVENT as described by Jesus in Matthew 24:6 can be correlated to a sign offered by John in Revelation 6:1 as the FIRST SEAL being broken, incidentally, by the LAMB Himself (Jesus).



CORRESPONDING FIRST SEAL of REVELATION

¶ *Then I saw when the Lamb broke one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying as with a voice of thunder, "Come." Rev 6: 1*

CORRESPONDING FIRST SEAL of REVELATION (cont'd)



2 *“I looked, and behold, a white horse, and he who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer.”*

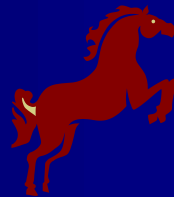
It is interesting here that although a ‘bow’ is carried no arrows are present (coincidence?) and a crown (authority) is given. This has been described as a time of political intrigue and imperialistic nation-building on a world-wide scale. This event has been a dominant feature of the past century. This event is to be followed by another **world-wide event** related to the second seal in Matthew and Revelation (which would preclude regional or pre-Christ events).

SECOND EVENT from MATTHEW



Jesus says in Matt 24:7 "For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom (also see Rev 6:3),
There is now an intensifying of WORLD EVENTS also seen in the book of Revelation.

CORRESPONDING SECOND SEAL of REVELATION



Rev 6:3 ¶ When He broke the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come."

4 And another, a red horse, went out; and to him who sat on it, it was granted to take peace from the earth, and that men would slay one another; and a great sword was given to him.

Interestingly, World War I is described as the Great War http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I . It was the first war recognized a WORLD WAR. It began in 1914 and lasted until 1918. But this would hardly seem to fit neatly into a seven year tribulation period.

Then we had World War II which began in 1939 and lasted until 1945 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II . Now we have two WORLD WARS that spanned a combined ten years. The entire Great Tribulation clearly will last only seven years.

So, how do these WORLD WAR events relate to prophecy or should they?

Jesus has already given us instruction that this is not yet the end and He will give further instruction about the timing of these events in Matthew 24 verse 8.

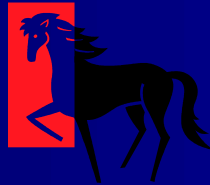
THIRD & FOURTH EVENTS from MATTHEW



Jesus says in Matt 24:7 and in various places there will be *famines and earthquakes* (see Rev 6:5-8).

It is important that we see and understand what Jesus is TEACHING corresponds with the unfolding of the Tribulation period as recorded in Revelation. **It will give us clear instruction, not only of what is coming but HOW TO PREPARE for these days.**

CORRESPONDING THIRD SEAL of REVELATION



Rev 6:5 When He broke the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, a black horse; and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard something like a voice in the center of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not damage the oil and the wine."

CORRESPONDING FOURTH SEAL of REVELATION



*Rev 6:7 When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come" I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with **famine and with pestilence** and by the wild beasts of the earth.*

We continue to see a clear correlation between Jesus' descriptions of the "coming troubles" in Matthew to John's depiction of the actual breaking of the seals in the book of Revelation.

Please remember: We are seeing Jesus describe the 'beginning' of the tribulation in Matthew 24 and the corresponding 'beginning' of the tribulation as Jesus actually breaks the Seals of the Books in Revelation.

But, the Rapture has not yet occurred. This will present clear evidence that we will endure the tribulation through the breaking of the Sixth Seal. Jesus tell us, "Do not fear. This is not yet the end". But we must prepare!

Next we get some clarification on events and the time or placement of the events:

Interlude - Time Marker - Instruction



Here, we are provided an interlude and a “time marker of instruction”. This is a good place to get our bearings.

Matthew 24: 8 "But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.

- a. Jesus tell us this is NOT THE END but MERELY THE BEGINNING and remember there is no evidence the church has not been RAPTURED yet.
- b. And He calls the beginning of **birth pangs**. This is similar to tribulation in the idea of discomfort or suffering.
- c. But the word describes a much different intensity of pressing or squeezing and pain than the GREAT Tribulation or the Wrath of the Lamb, which comes later.

There are several places in scriptures (Daniel, Matthew, Revelation) that use interchangeable words to describe ‘birth pangs’, ‘times of distress’, ‘times of sorrow’ and ‘tribulation’. However, there are other words such as ‘Great Tribulation’ and ‘Wrath of the Lamb’ that are a harbinger for a ‘time of trouble such as the world has never seen before and never will see again’. Is there is a distinction between the uses of these words that will give us a WARNING useful to our salvation our preparation and our enduring to the end?

FIFTH EVENT from MATTHEW



Jesus says, in Matt 24:9 *"Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another."*

Are we seeing a worldwide precursor to this prediction in our day? A return to the type of persecution the early church suffered? The book of Revelation puts it this way:



THE CORRESPONDING FIFTH SEAL of REVELATION

Rev 6: 9 ¶ *When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.*

We saw a great persecution of the early Christians and we have seen terrible persecution of Christians throughout our brief history and those Christians will be included in this SEAL, Jesus is clearly referring to a 'falling away' or an apostasy in the latter days. We must remember to keep these scriptures and Jesus discussion in the context it was given.

These next verses give us an interlude or a recapitulation which we can use to define the chronology of these events. Jesus is describing terrible times, but they pale in comparison to what is getting ready to happen. The next EVENTS are so terrible that **Jesus stops His discourse and emphasizes what is next and how to GET READY.**

Interlude - Time Markers – Instruction Matthew 24:11-20



NOTE: Here is a ‘recap’ of the series of events and warning so far and another ‘time line marker’ in Matthew 24

Matthew 24:11 "Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many.

12 "Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.

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

14 "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

15 "Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),

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

17 "Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house.

18 "Whoever is in the field must not turn back to get his cloak.

19 "But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

20 "But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

(1) The next verse begins with the words, “FOR THEN...”

- Not “before then”,
- Not “as it has been”

In other words, now that the preceding events have been completed and the seals have been broken NOW there will be a GREAT TRIBULATION...

(2) Many theologians, preachers and bible teachers, who subscribe to the doctrine of a pre-tribulation rapture occurring before the First Seal event, consider verses 15 through 20 as having already occurred.

However, Jesus is clear that He is telling His disciples of a coming event. For an example, see this excerpt taken from a “pulpit commentary” on <http://biblehub.com/matthew/24-16.htm> : *Verse 16. - Then; i.e. when they shall see "the abomination of desolation," etc. Them which be in Judaea. Not only in Jerusalem, but in its vicinity, as most exposed to danger from the invading army. Flee into (ἐπὶ, over) the mountains. The Christians seem to have taken this advice when the city was attacked by Costius Gallus, about A.D. , some three or more years before the siege under Vespasian. Gallus had appeared before the walls, and apparently had every hope of taking the city, when, for some reason not certainly known (either owing to a supposed defeat, or ignorance of his own success, or the advice of his generals), he suddenly withdrew his forces (Josephus, 'Bell. Jud.,' 2:19, 6, 7). The Christians, bearing Christ's warning in mind, and having, as we may conjecture, seen the predicted sign, took the opportunity of flight from the doomed city, and made their escape to Pella, a town of Decapolis, southeast of Bethshean, and the ruins of which are known now by the name of Fahil. Euschiuss probably refers to this migration ('Hist. Eccl.,' 3:5), narrating that, owing to a certain revelation given to holy men among them, the whole body of the Church, before the war, removed across the Jordan to Pella, and dwelt there in safety during those troublous times.*

***Jesus is clear that He is telling His disciples what is yet to come.
BIBLE PROPHECY, FREQUENTLY, HAS HISTORICAL PRECURSORY EVENTS.***

(Matthew 24 verses 21 and 29 describe this EVENT. Verses 22 through 28 give warnings and instructions for preparedness.)

21 "For then there will be a **GREAT TRIBULATION**, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

Please pay special attention these words in verse 21:

*FOR THEN – the “times of distress” or “the birth pangs” are now finished

*GREAT Tribulation – The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord is beginning

*Such as not occurred since the beginning of the world until now

*nor ever will

Something new is happening. The intensity is going up significantly. **THERE IS A TIME MARKER AT THIS POINT!** Read verses 22 through 28 carefully and absorb these dire warnings and instructions.

This is the time the Lord will appear and take His Church from the earth.

SIXTH EVENT from Matthew



22 "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.

23 "Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him.

24 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.

25 "Behold, I have told you in advance.

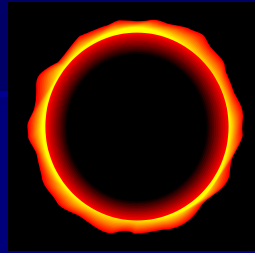
26 "So if they say to you, 'Behold, He is in the wilderness,' do not go out, or, 'Behold, He is in the inner rooms,' do not believe them.

27 "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

28 "Wherever the corpse is, there the vultures will gather.

29 **"But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.**

**SIXTH SEAL
of
REVELATION
BEGINS**



Rev 6:12 I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;

13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

14 The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

15 Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

16 and they *said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from **the wrath of the Lamb***

**NOW IT IS BEGINNING
“THE GREAT TRIBULATION”
Matthew 24:21,
“THE WRATH OF THE LAMB”
Revelation 6:16**

(The breaking of the 6th Seal continues through Revelation 7:17)

Now is one of greatest events ever to be witnessed by man

SEVENTH EVENT from MATTHEW



Matthew 24:30 "And *then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky*, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they *will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY* with power and great glory.

During and immediately after the

SIXTH SEAL

of

Revelation



Rev 7: 1 ¶ After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind would blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God; and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads."

Everything is coming to a crescendo.

God stops the events in progress and the breaking of the seals for a moment and all eyes are focused on the heavens

All the tribes of the earth will mourn,
*and they will see the **SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY** with power and great glory. Matthew 24:20*

The winds stops blowing and an angel ascends from the rising of the sun with the seal of the living God announcing the SEALING of the bond-servants of our God and the gathering of His Elect!

The winds have been stopped.

The events of the End of Days are paused.

God sends forth His angels with a great TRUMPET

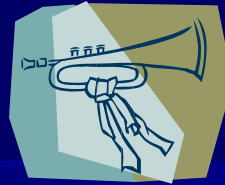
This is the “EVENT”

We all anxiously and eagerly anticipate.

NOTE: Some bible teachers will say this is Jesus coming to exact judgment on the earth. But read the text from Matthew 24:31 (next page)

EIGHTH EVENT

From MATTHEW



"And He will send forth His angels with A GREAT TRUMPET and **THEY WILL GATHER TOGETHER His elect from the four winds**, from one end of the sky to the other.

1Corinthians 15:52 - In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1Thessalonians 4:16 - For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

How much clearer can this be?

Immediately following the breaking of the SIXTH SEAL they gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other! Now, go to the next page for confirmation from the Book of Revelation.

During and immediately after breaking

THE SIXTH SEAL

from

REVELATION



Rev 7:9 -17 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?"

I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. "They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

The Church has been removed from the earth.

The RAPTURE has occurred

immediately before the sounding of the FIRST TRUMPET JUDGMENT.

The Gathering of His Elect – A review

Jesus finished breaking the first Six Seals of the Book of Revelation by sealing the 144,000 from the twelve tribes of Israel.

Then, a great multitude, which on one could count, from every nation and ALL TRIBES and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the LAMB, clothed in white robes, saying “SALVATION”!

Although the events recorded in the book of Revelation are not always in chronological order, chapters five, six and seven of Revelation (the breaking of the seals) appear to be in order.

Jesus’ description of the coming tribulation in the book of Matthew matches both description and order with John’s description of these same events contained in the book of Revelation.

We see Jesus gathering His elect at the sound of the trumpet (Matthew 24:31) and the “gathering of a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb” as the same event?

This would mean that the church (Christians) may experience some extremely difficult times before the day of The Wrath of the Lamb and the Rapture of His church. Compare the troubles of the first six seals compared to the last seal, the seven bowls and the seven trumpets of judgment. Remembering that the Wrath of the Lamb will be a time of trouble such as the world has never seen before and never will see again.

So, even though a period of “distress” or “tribulation” begins with the breaking of the first seal of Revelation “*intense trouble*” or the Great Tribulation or The Wrath of the Lamb a series of events involving those who have been saved throughout the ages, begins with the breaking of the sixth seal as recorded in Revelation chapter seven, verse one. The angels hold back the four winds of the earth (an interlude for a series of events on earth and the tightening of the grip of travail upon the earth.

Jesus then uses the example of Noah to explain that Christians must prepare for His Return.

Interlude - Time Markers – Instruction
Matthew 24:32-36



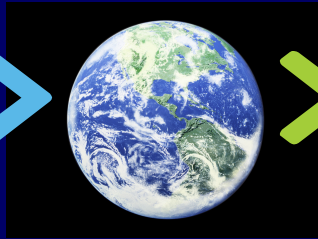
NOTE: Here is a ‘recap’ of the series of events and warning so far and another ‘time line marker’ in Matthew 24:

- 32 ¶ "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near;
33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.
34 "Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.
35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.
36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.
37 "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.
38 "For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,
39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; *so will the coming of the Son of Man be.*

A simple ‘face value’ reading of these verses tell us all we need to know.

- The time of His return is near;
- His Words are enduring and unchanging;
- No one knows the exact day or hour of His return.
- It is time to prepare the storehouse, and enter our ARK for the day of our salvation draws near.

So where do we go from here?



Except for a cursory reference, I have deliberately avoided relating current world events to the prophecies narrated by Jesus of Matthew 24 and those from the book of Revelation.

I am leaving it up to you, the reader, to look back over the past 100 years and consider what has occurred as related to biblical prophecy. It is up to you to consider the current condition of this world and compare it to prophecy in our day.

The bible says “¶ "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. Matt 24:32

Daily, newscasts, newspapers, television, magazines, the internet and every form of media is telling us of the deteriorating condition of our world. If we are not at “the end” of this age, we are in dire circumstances. At any rate, IT IS TIME TO GET READY for what is upon us.

Finally, this presentation is a capsulated and condensed version of Jesus’ narration of **The End of the Age** in response to the disciples question “Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?”

It is possible to go much deeper and broader in this study. If that is your desire there are plenty of materials available. In fact, as we establish bible study groups that may well be one of our studies. But, for now, it is time to prepare.

So, where do I go from here?

Matthew 24:42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. "But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. "For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will."



*Now is time to prepare,
and enter the ARK of His covenant
for the day of our salvation draws near*

Come Together in Community

Find and connect with Christians
Plan and coordinate family activities
Organize emergency training classes
Organize Political Action groups
Organize community service groups
Recruit legal defense team
Etc.

Make Disciples

Coordinate Bible Study Groups
Coordinate Prayer Groups
Commission Deacons/Ministers
Designate Home Church sites
Plan Worship Times and places
Organize evangelistic meetings
Send local missionaries
Etc.

Come together. We have equal vested interest. We are the Body of Christ.