



ESCHATOLOGY: A STUDY OF THE LAST DAYS

DEFINITIONS

1. **Eschatology-** A great word meaning “last” or “final”. Things expected to occur at the end of history
2. **Prophecy-** Simply to speak for God; a mouthpiece for the Lord. Can involve both forthtelling and foretelling.
3. **Millenium-** Latin word meaning 1000, described in Revelation 20:4-6 (Three views)
 - a. **Premillennialism-** Jesus will come and establish His Kingdom on earth.
 - b. **Postmillennialism-** Christ will return after an earthly kingdom is established
 - c. **Amillennialism-** No thousand-year kingdom.
4. **Tribulation-** Seven years of God’s wrath on the earth
 - a. **Pre trib-** Believe that the Rapture will take place before the tribulation
 - b. **Post trib-** Believe that the Rapture will take place after the tribulation
 - c. **Mid trib-** Believe that the Rapture will take place in the middle (3 ½ years) of tribulation
 - d. **Partial Rapture-** Believe only “spiritual Christians” will be raptured

FOUR PIVOTAL EVENTS

1) CREATION

2) FLOOD

3) CHRIST’S FIRST COMING

4) CHRIST’S SECOND COMING

PROPHECY IN THE BIBLE

- 31,124 Total Verses in the Bible
- 6,641 out of 23,210 OT verses contain predictions
- 28.5% of the OT is prophecy
- 1,711 out of 7,914 total number of NT verses contain prophecy
- 21.5% of the NT contains prophecy
- Total % of the Bible that is prophecy is 27%

- There are 27 books in the NT
- 23 of 27 talk of the 2nd coming of Christ
 - The only 4 who don't: Galatians, 2 & 3 John, Philemon
- IT'S IMPORTANT!

SIGNS OF HIS COMING

- Speculation on the date breeds bad theology. It is the original sin all over again, trying to know as much as God.

Two Extremes:

1. Everything is a sign
2. There are NO signs. All signs are relegated to the "Day of the Lord"

I. THE JEWISH SIGN (Number One Sign)

- Israel is the land of the fig tree (Matthew 24:32-34)
- The modern nation of Israel became an independent nation in 1948
- The fact that Israel would be regathered and restored in the final days is predicted in many places in the Bible (Is. 43:5-6, Jer. 30:3, Ez. 34:11-13, 36:34, 37:1-14, Rom. 11:25-27)
- No longer do Bible scholars have to say SOME DAY this will occur... It is HERE!
- Israel must exist as a nation in order for several prophecies to be fulfilled. Just a few examples:
 - AntiChrist makes 7 yr. contract with Israel (Dan. 9:27)
 - AntiChrist will invade Israel and desecrate the temple
 - Gog and his allies will invade Israel when it is at peace
 - All the nations of the earth will invade Jerusalem

- The people of Israel will feel into the wilderness to escape the wrath of Satan
- Awesome Quote “Now that the Jews are back in their land; the hammer of the end times gun has been cocked. All that remains is for God to pull the trigger to set the end in motion.”

2. THE RUSSIAN SIGN

- Ezekiel 38-39
 - These chapters predict that in the last days a vast confederation of nations from north of the Black and Caspian Seas...
 - Extends down to Iran in the east and North Africa to the southwest
 - They will join together in a great offensive against Israel after its return to the land.
 - The leader of this offensive is called “Gog”, who is identified as the “Prince of Rosh”
 - Three times in Ezekiel 38-39 the prophet says that Gog will lead his army from the “remote parts of the north” (38:6, 15, 39:2)
 - Is this Russia?
 - At the time Ezekiel was writing...
 - There was a group of people called Sarmatians (Not Samaritans, but Sarmatians)
 - These people were known as the RASHU, Rasapu, Ros, and Rus
 - In 200 B.C. they poured into modern day Southern Russia
 - Many scholars say that what we call Russians were known in this day as Ros
 - Ezekiel 38-39 says 3 times that Gog, the leader of Rosh, comes from “the remote parts of the north”
 - We can all assume this means the nation farthest north from Israel...
 - Glance at the globe and who do you find? Russia
 - So yes, Rosh is Russia
- Many people assumed that when the Soviet Union was going strong that it was a sure sign that the End Times were near... Then it dissolved so it actually never was a sign...
- Russia today is much more dangerous than ever before!
- Yes, her economy is in shambles...
- But it’s like a mother bear robbed of her cubs
- She is a starving bear
- Do not overlook Russia
- As we track this bear in the end times... we discover that her footprints lead right to the land of Israel.
- We’re going to consider 4 Key Points:

ONE: RUSSIA'S ALLIES

- When Russia makes her great push to the south into the land of Israel in the last days, she will be lead by a power-crazed madman called Gog.
- Gog isn't his literal name, it's his title (i.e. Pharaoh, Caesar, or President)
- Gog: a high mountain, high, supreme, on a height.
- Ezekiel calls him 3 times the prince or leader of Rosh.
- Gog will be lead by a "vast and awesome horde" of allies (Ezekiel 38:9)
- Ezekiel 38:1-6
 - o Magog----- Modern Central Asia (Islamic Republics of the Former Soviet Union)
 - o Meshech----- Turkey
 - o Tubal----- Turkey
 - o Persia----- IRAN!!! (Name changed in 1935)
 - o Ethiopia----- Sudan
 - o Libya (Put)-- Libya
 - o Gomer----- Turkey
 - o Beth-togarmarah-- Turkey
- In depth look at this list...
- Russia will have 5 key allies: Turkey, Iran, Libya, Sudan, and the nations of Central Asia
- WHAT DO THESE NATIONS HAVE IN COMMON???
- o ALL MUSLIM NATIONS!
- Also they are all strengthening their ties with one another as we speak.
- Iran, Sudan, and Libya are 3 of the most aggressive opponents.
- Not too difficult to imagine these nations conspiring together to invade Israel in the near future.

TWO: RUSSIA'S ACTIVITY

- When is this supposed to happen?
- Ezekiel says that these nations, led by Russia, will come against Israel "in the last days". At a time when the people of Israel are living in peace and prosperity (38:8-12)
- Probably the first half of the tribulation
- When Israel will be living in her peace treaty with the AntiChrist, near the middle of the tribulation...
- Russia and her Islamic allies will descend upon the nation of Israel, "like a storm and cover the land like a cloud" (Ezekiel 38:9)
- Why would they do that? Four Main Reasons...
 - o To cash in on the wealth of Israel (Ez. 38:11-12)
 - o To control the Middle East
 - o To crush Israel (Islamic nations HATE Israel)
 - o To challenge the authority of the AntiChrist (Dan. 1:40-44)

- Daniel 11:41-44 describes a war in which the King of the north and the King of the south will fight in the wars of the AntiChrist, and AntiChrist will then rule all

THREE: RUSSIA'S ANNIHILATION

- When these nations invade Israel, it will look like the biggest mismatch in history.
- Gog's assault will make the Arab invasions of Israel in 1967 and 1973 pale in comparison
- Read Ezekiel 38:18-19
 - o "It will come about on that day, when Gog comes against the land of Israel," declares the Lord GOD, "that My fury will mount up in My anger. "In my zeal and in My blazing wrath I declare that on that day there will surely be a great earthquake in the land of Israel.
- When God comes to the rescue of His helpless people
- He will use 4 means to destroy His invaders
 - o A Great Earthquake (v. 19-20)
 - o In-fighting among troops of the various nations (v. 21)... Largest case of death by friendly fire in human history
 - o Disease (v. 22)
 - o Torrential rain, hailstones, fire and burning sulfur (v. 22)

FOUR: THE AFTERMATH OF RUSSIA'S DESTRUCTION

- Four Key Events
 - o The Birds and the Beasts (Ezekiel 39:4-5, 17-20)
 - o Seven-month Burial of the Dead (Ezek. 39:11-12, 14-16)
 - o Seven-year Burning of the Weapons (Ezek. 39:9-10)
 - o Blessing of Salvation (Ez. 39:21-22)

In conclusion... KEEP YOUR EYE ON RUSSIA!


3. THE CHINESE SIGN

- Revelation 16:12 “The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up to prepare the way for the kings from the East.”
- China, the sleeping giant, has awakened and forms “the kings of the East”
- They will send troops numbering 200 million
 - China in 2005...
 - Active Personnel: 2,250,000
 - Reserve Personnel: 800,000
 - Paramilitary: 3,969,000
 - Total: 7,024,000
 - Available for military service
 - Males: 342,956,265
 - Females: 324,701,244
 - Total: **667,657,509** (USA Population currently: 308,750,633)

4. THE REVIVED ROMAN EMPIRE SIGN

- The 2nd most important sign...
- In the prophecies of Daniel 2 & 7, the Bible previews the course of world history from King Nebuchadnezzar to Christ’s Kingdom.
- These passages reveal that 5 Gentile world empires will rule the world in succession from 605 B.C. to the 2nd coming of Christ.
 - Babylon
 - Medo-Persia
 - Greece
 - Roman Empire
 - **ROME II (The Kingdom of the AntiChrist)**
- The prophecies reveal The Metallic Man in Daniel 2 and the Beasts in Daniel 7
- Daniel 2:7, 32-45 reveal the Metallic Man dream
- Daniel 7 uses imagery of beasts...
- Refer to the image on page 7

The Gentiles in Prophecy

	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 2)	Daniel's Dream (Daniel 7)	The Kingdoms Prophesied
	Gold (Head)	Lion	Babylonian
	Silver (Breast & Arms)	Bear	Medo-Persian
	Brass (Belly & Thighs)	Leopard	Greek
	Iron (Legs)	Beast with Iron Teeth	Roman
	Iron & Clay (Feet)	Ten Horns	Antichrist
	Stone	Son of Man	Jesus Christ

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- There are three key points that prove that this 5th great empire will be ruling the world when Christ returns
 - Number one, in Daniel 2 the ten toes on the feet made of iron and clay are an extension of the iron legs, which represent the ancient Roman Empire
 - In Daniel 7, the ten horns and the little horn (Antichrist) are on the head of the fourth beast, which also represents the ancient Roman Empire.
 - Since the original Roman Empire never existed in a ten-kingdom form, it seems to me that this is picturing a new form of the Roman Empire: Rome II
 - Number two, the stone that strikes the statue, destroying the ten toes, is considered by most Biblical scholars to represent Jesus' return.
 - If that is so, it must mean that the kingdom that is in power when Jesus returns will be the ten-nation confederacy that arises out of the Roman Empire. (see Daniel 2:34, 44-45)
 - Number three, the little horn in Daniel 7:8, which is usually understood to be the Antichrist, rules over the ten horns on the fourth beast.
 - Since Antichrist will rule over the world at the time Christ returns, it must mean that the fifth beast, the final kingdom, is the

future kingdom of the Antichrist that will be forged together out of the nations of the Roman Empire.

- So who/what is Rome II or the Antichrist's kingdom???
- E.E.U. seems to be the development of such an Empire.
 - o 27 member states (All were involved in former Roman Empire)
 - Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and United Kingdom.
- The rise of the European Union seems to be a direct fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy.
- Most of the member nations were part of the Roman Empire at the height of its glory.
- Amazingly, it has taken under 50 years to bring about that amalgamation of nations.
- Here are some of the key events and dates of what appears to be the reuniting of the Roman Empire in our time
 - o 1957: Birth of the modern EU (Treaty of Rome), six nations join: Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, France, Italy, and the Netherlands (total of 220 million people)
 - o 1973: EEC (European Economic Community) formed; Denmark, Ireland, and Great Britain join, bringing in 66 million more people. Greece joins the EEC in 1981, becoming the 10th member.
 - o 1986: Portugal and Spain join the EEC
 - o 1995: Austria, Finland, and Sweden join the EU (European Union) bringing the total population to 362 million in 15 members
 - o January 1, 1999: Monetary union of the EU; currency called the Euro
 - o 2002: The Euro replaces 12 national currencies.
- Mark Hitchcock, leading prophecy scholar, said "I'll never forget seeing a copy of a European magazine after the Maastricht Treaty was ratified (this treaty scheduled the permanent linkage of European nations). The magazine headline read 'Back Together Again'. When had the nations of Europe ever been together? Only during the days of the Roman Empire."
- It appears that the broken iron empire from Nebuchadnezzar's dream is beginning to come together again, just as Daniel predicted. The EU now has an elected representative legislative body (the European Commission), a 518 member advisory board (the European Parliament), and a presidency that rotates among the member countries.
- The European Community Conference on Security and Cooperation has even called for a new collective security organization to replace NATO.
- All this seems to be paving the way for a united government to go along with the united economy
- The feet of iron and clay are making every effort to adhere to one another.
- All that remains is for ten of the nations in the mix to rise to the top and form a consolidated common government.

- When this happens, Rome will truly live again, and out of this Western confederacy the Antichrist will rise to rule the world during the great Tribulation.
- ***For me, this event and the regathering and rebirth of Israel are the two key signs of the end times.***

5. THE APOSTASY SIGN

- Apostasy: Turning or falling away from true gospel teachings as individuals or as a people.
- 4 Places We Find this in the Scriptures...
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:3 NASB
 - Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy (a great rebellion against God) comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction.
 - 1 Timothy 4:1-5 NLT
 - “Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from what we believe; they will follow lying spirits and teachings that come from demons. 2 These teachers are hypocrites and liars. They pretend to be religious, but their consciences are dead. 3 They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods. But God created those foods to be eaten with thanksgiving by people who know and believe the truth. 4 Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it. We may receive it gladly, with thankful hearts. 5 For we know it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.
 - 1) Abstain from Marriage
 - 2) Abstain from Food
 - Revelation 3:14-20 NASB
 - "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write : The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this : 15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot ; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed ; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. 19 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline ; therefore be zealous and repent. 20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock ; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.
 - Revelation 17:4-7 NLT
 - “The woman wore purple and scarlet clothing and beautiful jewelry made of gold and precious gems and pearls. She held in her hand a gold goblet full of obscenities and the impurities of her immorality. 5 A mysterious name was written on her forehead: “Babylon the Great, Mother of All Prostitutes and Obscenities in the World.” 6 I could see that she was drunk- drunk with the blood of God’s holy people who were witnesses for Jesus. 1

stared at her completely amazed. 7 ‘Why are you so amazed?’ the angel asked. ‘I will tell you the mystery of this woman and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns.’

6. THE SEXUAL DEPRAVITY SIGN

- Luke 17:26-33 NLT
 - ‘When the Son of Man returns, the world will be like the people were in Noah’s day. 27 In those days before the flood, the people enjoyed banquets and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat and the flood came to destroy them all. 28 ‘And the world will be as it was in the days of Lot. People went about their daily business- eating and drinking, buying and selling, farming and building- 29 until the morning Lot left Sodom. Then fire and burning sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. 30 Yes, it will be ‘business as usual’ right up to the hour when the Son of Man returns. 31 On that day a person outside the house must not go into the house to pack. A person in the field must not return to town. 32 Remember what happened to Lot’s wife! 33 Whoever clings to this life will lose it, and whoever loses this life will save it.”
 - Incest
 - Sex Changes
 - Homosexual Relations
- Gay rights and same sex marriage... Daniel 11:37 is the picture of the modern American man...
 - “He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all.”

7. DEMONIC ACTIVITY SIGN

- 1 Timothy 4:1
 - “Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from what we believe; they will follow lying spirits and teachings that come from demons.
- We are seeing the revival of mystery Babylon (astrology, spiritism, scientology, drugs, and hallucinations of the supernatural)
- Revelation 18:23 (sorceries)

8. THE PREOCCUPATION SIGN

- Matthew 24:37-39
 - o "When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah's day. 38 In those days before the Flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. 39 People didn't realize what was going to happen until the Flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes."
- Just like the people failed to hear Noah's warnings, so too will many fail to hear the warnings...
- 2 Timothy 3:1-2
 - o You should also know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred.
- Someone has said about our current condition of the world... "We are going 1st class on the Titanic".

9. THE EARTH SIGNS (Matthew 24:3-14)

1. False Christs (v. 4-5)
 - o Since 1900 over 2,000 false Christs have appeared
2. Wars and Rumors of Wars (v. 6-7)
 - o Surely not, right?
3. Famines and Pestilences (v. 7)
 - o Some simple Starvation statistics...
 - Every year 15 million children die of hunger
 - Every 2.43 seconds someone dies from starvation
 - The World Health Organization estimates that 1/3 of the world is well-fed, 1/3 is under-fed, and 1/3 is starving
 - o Bird Flu, Swine Flu, AIDS, etc..
 - o Mad Cow Disease, Mosquitos, etc...
4. Earthquakes (v. 7)
 - o From the year this statement was made (30 A.D.) to 1959 a total of 24 major earthquakes were reported
 - o From 1960 to 1985 over 30 major earthquakes (6.9 and above)
 - o From 1985 to present... **98** major earthquakes
5. Persecution (v. 9)
 - o Many are dying for their faith daily
 - o Persecutedchurch.org
 - o Some more simple statistics
 - Since the death of Jesus Christ over 2000 years ago, 43,000,000 Christians have become martyrs.
 - Over 50% of these were in the last century alone.
 - More than 200 million Christians face persecution each day
 - 60% are children.

- Every day over 300 are killed for their faith in Jesus Christ.
 - Hatred (v. 10)
- 6. False Prophets
 - Turn on a TV
- 7. Iniquity (Lawlessness) (v. 12)
 - Speaks for itself
- 8. All Nations Must Receive the Gospel
 - We are getting closer and closer...
 - 10/40 Window
 - Most of the people groups still unreached by the gospel live in places stretching across the maps of northern Africa and Asia. The 10/40 window is used to reference the area because it lies across Africa and Asia from 10 degrees latitude north of the equator to 40 latitude north of the equator.
 - 2/3's of the world's population- more than 4.4 billion people- live in the 10/40 window
 - 90% of the people living in the 10/40 window are unevangelized.
 - Countries in the area
 - Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina, Faso, Cambodia, Chad, China, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Gibraltar, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Macau, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen.
 - More stats...
 - 865 million unreached Muslims in 3330 cultural sub-groupings
 - 550 million unreached Hindus in 1660 cultural sub-groups
 - 150 million unreached Chinese in 830 groups
 - 275 million unreached Buddhists in 900 groups
 - 2550 unreached tribal groups (which are mainly animistic) with a total population of 140 million.
 - Good news: 80% of the world's people have access to at least some portion of the Bible in a language they can understand.

SO WHAT NOW?

1. Pray For His Coming

- Revelation 22:20
 - o “He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, “Yes I am coming soon!” Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!
- Question: Is it wrong for us to pray for this prayer with multitudes still unreached?

2. Believe His Coming

- 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18
 - o “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have died in Jesus. **15** For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have died. **16** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore comfort one another with these words
- “Comfort one another with these words”

3. Wait For His Coming

- 2 Thessalonians 3:5
 - o “May the Lord bring you into an even deeper understanding of the love of God and the patient waiting for Christ.

4. Love His Coming

- 2 Timothy 4:8
 - o “And now the prize awaits me- the crown of righteousness that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that great day of His return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to His glorious return.”
- Question: Why do YOU want Him to come?

5. Preach His Coming

- 2 Timothy 4:1-2
 - o “I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: **2** preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

6. Look For His Coming

- Titus 2:13 “while we wait for the blessed hope- the glorious appearing of our great God and our Savior Jesus Christ,”

7. Hasten His Coming

- 2 Peter 3:2-10
 - o 2 I want you to remember and understand what the holy prophets said long ago and what our Lord and Savior commanded through your apostles. 3 First, I want to remind you that in the last days there will be scoffers who will laugh at the truth and do every evil thing they desire. 4 This will be their argument: "Jesus promised to come back, did he? Then where is he? Why, as far back as anyone can remember, everything has remained exactly the same since the world was first created." 5 They deliberately forget that God made the heavens by the word of his command, and he brought the earth up from the water and surrounded it with water. 6 Then he used the water to destroy the world with a mighty flood. 7 And God has also commanded that the heavens and the earth will be consumed by fire on the day of judgment, when ungodly people will perish. 8 But you must not forget, dear friends, that a day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. 9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise to return, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and everything in them will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be exposed to judgment

8. Do Not Be Ashamed at His Coming

- The time is NOW!

WILL THE CHURCH GO THROUGH THE TRIBULATION?

What is the Tribulation Period?

- Prophesied in Daniel as Daniel's 70th week (Daniel 9:20-27)
- In Jeremiah it is known as "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:49)
- It is a time such has never been...
- It is a period for which the Antichrist will rule
- It is a period of Divine Judgment upon the earth... Followed by a 1,000 reign of Christ

Views Concerning the Rapture:

1. Partial Rapture- Includes only spiritual Christians
2. Pre-Wrath- About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ years) right before God pours out wrath on earth during 7th seal
3. Mid-Tribulation- Church is raptured after 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years
4. Post-Tribulation- Church is raptured after 7 year tribulation
5. Pre-Tribulation- Church is raptured before the tribulation

Why We Believe the Church Will NOT Go Through the Tribulation:

1. The Tribulation is a period of Divine Wrath (Rev. 6:17), the Christian, by the cross, is not appointed to wrath.
 - 1 Thessalonians 1:10
 - "and to wait for His Son from Heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.
2. The tribulation cannot begin until the Church is removed
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2
 - "And now, brothers and sisters, let us tell you about the coming again of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered together to meet him. **2** Please don't be so easily shaken and troubled by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. Even if they claim to have had a vision, a revelation, or a letter supposedly from us, don't believe them."
 - Revelation 3:10
 - "Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world.

3. The Book of Revelation pictures the saints in heaven at the beginning of the tribulation
 - Revelation 19:14
 - “The armies of heaven, dressed in pure white linen, followed Him on white horses.”

4. It would be impossible for the saints to come back to earth if first they had not been raptured away!
 - Jude 14
 - “Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones.”

UP, UP AND AWAY: THE RAPTURE

There are two events in the Second Coming...

- 1) Coming FOR His Church
- 2) Coming WITH His Church

The most important passage found on the Rapture is 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18... Let's look at 5 truths from the passage...

1) THE SAVIOR

- Verse 16 “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven...”
- Christ comes for us personally
- There will be no substitute
 - Acts 1:11 “They said, ‘Men of Galilee, why are staring at the sky? This same Jesus that has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.’”
 - John 14:3 “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.”
- Crazy Love moment: He's coming back PERSONALLY.

2) THE SOUNDS

- Verse 16 “...with the commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God...”
- 1 Corinthians 15:52 “It will happen in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, the Christians who have died will be raised with transformed bodies. And then we who are living will be transformed so that we will never die.”

3) THE SAINTS

- The Dead in Christ will rise first...
 - Verse 16 "...First all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves..."
- Living believers will be next...
 - Verse 17 "Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with Him forever."

4) THE SINNER

- Left behind...
 - "Two men will be working in the field- one will be taken, one left behind; two women will be grinding at the mill- one will be taken, one left behind." Matthew 24:40-41
- Cast into Tribulation...
 - "He will use every kind of wicked deception to fool those who are on their way to destruction because they refuse to believe the truth that would save them. 11 So God will send great deception upon them, and they will believe all these lies. 12 Then they will be condemned for not believing the truth and for enjoying the evil they do."

5) THE SOLACE

- Verse 18 "So comfort and encourage each other with these words"
- Comfort for the believer
 - Release from sins presence
 - Redemption of our bodies
 - Rejoicing with loved ones
 - Received by Jesus

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

In life we are judged 3 times...

Past- As a sinner... that's handled at the Cross...

Present- As a Son... we must learn to judge ourselves...

Future- As a Servant... Judgment Seat of Christ...

1) WHO?

- Jesus
- Believers as individuals
 - Romans 14:12 "Yes, each of us will have to give a personal account to God."

2) WHAT?

- That basics of Judgment in life (1 Cor. 3:13)
 - The thoughts of our mind
 - The words of our lips (Luke 12:3)
 - The steps of our feet
 - The works of our hands (Romans 2:6)
 - The love of our hearts (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
 - The vision of our eyes
- What are you building?
 - The building is going up...
 - Two kinds of material
 - Temporary
 - Eternal
 - The fire will put it to the test

3) WHY?

- To bring harmony to the church
- To determine our rank in the coming kingdom
 - Luke 19:17 "Well done!" the king exclaimed. "You are a trustworthy servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward."
- To give out rewards
 - Incorruptible Crown
 - Crown of Righteousness
 - Crown of Glory
 - Crown of Life
 - Crown of Rejoicing

HERE COMES THE BRIDE

After the Church is raptured... Some important questions are asked... One of the most pertinent questions is what will we be doing?... It's wedding time.

1) Who's Getting Married?

- a. Christ- Groom
- b. The Church- Bride

2) Who's Invited to Attend?

- a. Old Testament Saints
- b. All Tribulation Saints
- c. Angels

3) Where Will the Wedding Take Place

- a. Heaven
- b. The sweet music (Rev. 19:1-6)
 - a. Praise of Angels (v. 1-2)
 - b. Praise of Nature
 - c. Praise of the Redeemer (v. 6-7)

4) Are They Going to Have a Reception

- a. A feast such has never been seen.
- b. Supper- possibly last 7 years

5) Where Are They Going On Their Honeymoon

- a. Trip from heaven to earth (Rev. 19:14; Jude 14)
- b. 1000 years upon earth as priest and kings (Rev. 20:6)

6) Where Are They Going To Live After the Honeymoon?

- a. Bridegroom takes a bride to their home
- b. The new Jerusalem (Rev. 21:10-27)

THE COMING ANTICHRIST

1) Definition:

- *Christ*: anointed one
- *Anti*: against

2) His Titles:

- Little Horn
 - Daniel 7:8 “As I was looking at the horns, suddenly another small horn appeared among them. Three of the first horns were wrenched out, roots and all, to make room for it. This **little horn** had eyes like human eyes and a mouth that was boasting arrogantly.
- The Willful King
 - Daniel 11:36 “The king will do as he pleases, exalting himself and claiming to be greater than every god there is, even blaspheming the God of gods. He will succeed—until the time of wrath is completed. For what has been determined will surely take place.”
- The Man of Sin
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:3 “Don’t be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the **man of lawlessness** is revealed—the one who brings destruction.
- The Son of Perdition
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:3 “Don’t be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—**the one who brings destruction.**
- The Wicked One
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:3
- The Beast
 - 36 times in Revelation

3) Total Opposition of Christ

<u>Christ</u>	<u>Antichrist</u>
The Truth	The Lie
The Holy One	The Lawless One
The Man of Sorrows	The Man of Sin
The Son of God	The Son of Destruction
The Mystery of Godliness	The Mystery of Iniquity
Cleanses the Temple	Desecrates the Temple
The Lamb	The Beast

4) The Counterfeit Messiah

<u>Feature</u>	<u>Christ</u>	<u>Antichrist</u>
Origin	Heaven	Bottomless Pit
Nature	The Good Shepherd	The Foolish Shepherd
Destiny	To be exalted on high	To be cast down into hell
Goal	To do His Father's will	To do his own will
Purpose	To save the lost	To destroy the holy temple
Authority	His Father's Name	His own name
Attitude	Humbled Himself	Exalts himself
Fruit	The True Vine	The vine of the earth
Response	Despised	Admired

5) So Who is He?

- His Nationality
 - Revelation 13:1 “And now in my vision I saw a beast rising up out of the sea. It had seven heads and ten horns, with ten crowns on its horns. And written on each head were names that blasphemed God.”
- Those who people thought...
 - Judas Iscariot
 - Adolph Hitler
 - Stalin
 - Gorbachev
 - Clinton
 - Many popes
 - Obama
 - Etc...

6) His Characteristics

- Intellectual Genius (Daniel 8:33)
 - He will overwhelm and captivate the world with his superhuman intellect and powers and perception
- Oratorical Genius (Daniel 11:36)
 - The whole world will be swayed by the hypnotic spell of his words.
- Political Genius (Revelation 7:11-12)
 - Will emerge from relative obscurity to take the world political scene by storm.
 - Will be elected to rule over reunited Roman empire
- Commercial Genius (Dan. 11:43; Rev. 13:16-17)
 - Will be CEO of world's economy
 - Everything will be globalized under his control
 - From midpoint of tribulation to 2nd coming of Christ, no one can buy or sell without his permission.
- Military Genius (Rev. 6:2; 13:2)
 - After midpoint, the mask will come off
 - Will crush everything and everyone in his path

- He will be the final great Caesar
- Religious Genius (Rev. 13:8)
 - Will be able to do what Mohammed, Buddha, or any pope could not do... Unite the world in worship
 - H.L. Wilmington used this analogy w/ U.S. Presidents
 - Leadership of Washington and Lincoln
 - Eloquence of Franklin Roosevelt
 - Charm of Teddy Roosevelt
 - Charisma of Kennedy
 - Popularity of Ike Eisenhower
 - Political Saavy of a Johnson
 - Intellect of a Jefferson
- Apart of Satanic Trinity
 - True Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit
 - Unholy Trinity: Satan, Antichrist, False Prophet

THE WORLD'S WORST TIME

The Main Events on Earth During Tribulation

- Most complete descriptions of this time is found in Revelation 6-19
- What is the Tribulation?
 - o Utterly God's judgment
 - o This judgment is poured out in 3 successive waves, each of which contains 7 parts
 - 7 Seals
 - 7 Trumpets
 - 7 Bowls
- The 7 seals will be opened during the 1st half of the Tribulation
- The 7 trumpets will be blown during the 2nd half of the Tribulation
- The 7 bowls will be poured out in a very brief period of time just before Christ returns.
- Let's look at the crashing waves...

A) The Seven Seals

<u>Seal</u>	<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>Revelation</u>
1 st Seal	White Horse	Antichrist	6:1-2
2 nd Seal	Red Horse	War	6:3-4
3 rd Seal	Black Horse	Famine	6:5-6
4 th Seal	Pale Horse	Death & Hell	6:7-8
5 th Seal	-----	Martyrs in Heaven	6:9-11
6 th Seal	-----	Univeral Devastation	6:12-17
7 th Seal	The 7 Trumpets	Begins next wave	8:1-2

B) The Seven Trumpets

<u>Trumpets</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Rev.</u>
1 st Trumpet	Bloody Hail & Fire	1/3 of vegetation destroyed	8:7
2 nd Trumpet	Fireball from Heaven	1/3 of oceans polluted	8:8-9
3 rd Trumpet	Falling Star	1/3 of fresh water polluted	10-11
4 th Trumpet	Darkness	1/3 of sun, moon, stars darkened	8:12
5 th Trumpet	Demonic Invasion	Torment	9:1-12
6 th Trumpet	Demonic Army	1/3 of mankind killed	13-21
7 th Trumpet	The Kingdom	The announcement	11:15-19

- As bad as these 1st two waves; the 7 bowls clearly signal the worst in history for mankind
- These will be quick in succession unlike seals and trumpets
- Notice similarity in Exodus 7-11 on Egyptians; but this will be worldwide

C) The Seven Bowls

<u>Bowl</u>	<u>Poured Out</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Rev.</u>
1 st Bowl	Upon the Earth	Sores on the worshippers of Antichrist	16:2
2 nd Bowl	Upon the Seas	Seas turned to Blood	16:3
3 rd Bowl	Upon the Fresh Water	Water turned to Blood	4-7
4 th Bowl	Upon the Sun	Intense, Scorching Heat	8-9
5 th Bowl	Upon the AC Kingdom	Darkness and Pain	10-11
6 th Bowl	Upon the Euphrates	Armageddon	12-16
7 th Bowl	Upon the Air	Earthquakes and Hail	17-21

TRIBULATION'S FAQ

I- Who in the world are the 144,000?

- In Revelation 7 and 14, we see a mysterious group of people- 144,000 strong- who faithfully serve the Lord during the tribulation... who are these people?
 1. Identity of the 144,000
 - A. Who They're Not
 - 1) They're not the church
 - We the church are already in Heaven
 - 2) They are not the Jehovah Witnesses
 - They believe only 144,000 go to Heaven
 - Supposedly their number reached 144,000 in 1935
 - Judge Rutherford, 2nd pres. Of Watchtower, shut the door to Heaven in 1935
 - According to official doctrine, all JW's after 1935 will live forever on earth but will not go to heaven.
 - B. Then Who Are They?
 - Take Bible at face value
 - 144,000 are a group of Jewish men
 - 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel
 - They are raised up by God in the tribulation to serve Him
 - Saved DURING the Tribulation
 2. Characteristics of 144,000
 - A. They Have Been Purchased
 - Rev. 14:3 "redeemed from the earth"
 - Purchased by the blood of Jesus
 - B. They Have Been Prepared
 - Revelation 7:3-4 "Wait! Don't hurt the land or the sea or the trees until we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of his servants." And I heard how many were marked with the seal of God. There were 144,000 who were sealed from all the tribes of Israel:
 - Revelation 14:1 "Then I saw the Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him were 144,000 who had His name and His Father's name written on their foreheads.
 - How will they receive???
 - Some believe God could give "Saul like experiences" to 144,000
 - C. They Are Protected
 - They will be exempt from the wrath of God and Satan during the Tribulation
 - In Revelation 14:1-5 John sees all 144,000 standing triumphantly on Mt. Zion
 - Not 143,999... All 144,000 made it through

- D. They Are Pure
 - “Unfiled by Women”
 - Some look at that figuratively
 - Some Literally
- E. They Are Persistent
 - “Follow the Lamb wherever He goes” Rev. 14:4
- F. They Are Preachers
 - Primary ministry is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - To the very end Christ will “seek and save those who are lost”

2- What in the world is the mark of the beast?

- When the beast seizes power at the middle of the Tribulation, every person on earth will be faced with a monumental decision... Will I take the mark of the beast?
- Everyone who wishes to buy or sell anything during the Tribulation will be required to take the mark- either on his right hand or forehead
- The word *mark* in Greek (*charagma*) means a brand or tattoo
- The technology is certainly available today to “tattoo”, “brand”, or “embed” a number on or under the skin of every person alive to regulate world commerce
- As Henry Morris observes:
 - The nature of the mark is not described, but the basic principle has been established for years in various nations. The social security card, the practice of stenciling an inked design on the back of the hand, and various other devices are all forerunners of this universal branding. The word itself (“mark”) is the Greek *charagma*. It is used only in Revelation, to refer to the mark of the beast (eight times), plus one time to refer to idols “graven by art and man’s device” (Acts 17:29). The mark is something like an etching or a tattoo which, once inscribed, cannot be removed, providing a permanent (possibly eternal) identification as a follower of the beast and the dragon.
- So the issue for each person alive during the Tribulation will be this...
- Will I swear allegiance to the man who claims to be god? Will I give up ownership of my life to him by taking his mark, or will I bow the knee to the true God and lose my right to buy and sell even face beheading (Rev. 20:4)?
- The Antichrist’s economic policy will be very simple: Take my mark and worship me, or starve.
- It will certainly be bad for those who refuse to take the mark.
- But it will be far worse for those who choose to receive it. By receiving this mark, a person forfeits eternal life...
 - Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead, or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger, and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes

up forever and ever, they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”
(Revelation 14:9-11)

- Don't take the mark.

3- How in the world will anyone survive?

- Reading through Revelation and all that will take place during the Tribulation, the big question looms... how in the world can ANYONE survive the last days?
- As many as 2/3 of the world's Jewish population will be slain
- In the 4th seal judgment... 1/4 of earth's population is killed
- In the 6th trumpet judgment... another 1/3 of the earth is destroyed
- That's half of the world's population in just two judgments
- Then as the bowls of wrath are poured out in Revelation 16, it looks like the annihilation of the human race is imminent...
- The Lord knew we would ask this question, so He gave us the answer...
 - o For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. 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. (Matthew 24:21-22)
- Jesus assures us that there will be many people who will survive the horrors of the Tribulation.
- All of these people will be gathered together for judgment when Christ returns.
- The righteous will enter the millennial kingdom and the lost will be cast into eternal fire. (Matthew 25:31-46)

ARMAGEDDON

I. The Battlefield

- What does Armageddon mean?
 - Found in one verse... Revelation 16:16 “And they gathered all the rulers and their armies to a place called Armageddon in Hebrew.”
 - Made up of two Hebrew words: *Har* (mountain); *Megiddo* (city in northern part of Israel)...
 - The mountain of Megiddo or Armageddon
 - Kinda like Gettysburg, Armageddon is both a place and an event.
- How big is it?
 - Will spread out over the entire land of Israel
 - Will span 180-200 miles from north to south and 100 miles from east to west.
 - The Bible focuses on three specific places where the fighting will be the most intense...
 - The Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:2,12)
 - This is probably another name for the Kidron valley. This valley is on the east side of Jerusalem and runs between the eastern wall of the city of Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives
 - The Valley of Esdraelon (Revelation 16:14-16)
 - This valley, also known as the valley of Jezreel, the valley of Taanach, and the plains of Megiddo, is a plain 20 miles long and 14 miles wide that lies at the foot of Mt. Megiddo or Armageddon. It is here that the armies of the earth in alliance with the Antichrist will gather and meet their doom. In Mark Twain’s book, *The Innocents Abroad*, he called the Plain of Esdraelon “the battlefield of the nations”.
 - Bozrah/Edom (Isaiah 34:1-5, 63:1)
 - The Bible tells us that when Jesus returns one of the very first places He will go will be to Bozrah, royal city of Edom. Bozrah is east of the Jordan river in the modern nation of Jordan. It is near the rock city of Petra.
- Misconceptions
 - Technically not a BATTLE... it is more like a war or campaign.
 - Armageddon is not the same as the Ezekiel War

2. The Battle Foes

- At the end of the Tribulation, all nations will come against Israel
- Again the foes found in Ezekiel 38 will be present once again (Russia and her allies including Iran, Ethiopia, Libya and Turkey
- Plus all nations east of the Euphrates
- Plus all nations west of the Euphrates...
- YES ALL NATIONS

3. The Battle Features

- Seven Key Phases
 - Phase 1: Euphrates Dried Up
 - The Euphrates River will be dried up to prepare the way for the kings of the east to move into Israel (Revelation 16:12). All that we know about the kings of the East is that they represent nations east of the Euphrates. A glance at the world map shows that that could include such modern nations as India, Pakistan, Russia, China, and Japan.
 - Phase 2: Antichrist's Armies Gather
 - Antichrist's allies (including the kings of the East) will assemble in the valley of Megiddo or Armageddon (Revelation 16:12-16)
 - Phase 3: Fall of Jerusalem
 - Jerusalem will be attacked and will fall to Antichrist's forces (Zechariah 12:1-3; 14:1-2)
 - Phase 4: Second Coming
 - Jesus Christ will return personally to the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4). This is the second coming of Jesus Christ.
 - Phase 5: Jerusalem Rescued
 - When Antichrist sees the coming Christ and His heavenly army, he will rally his forces to fight against the King of kings (Revelation 19:19). These armies gathered against Jerusalem will be destroyed by Christ and His army in the Valley of Jehoshaphat outside Jerusalem (Joel 3:9-17; Zechariah 12:1-9; 14:3). Jerusalem will be rescued by her Messiah.
 - Phase 6: Remnant Delivered
 - Immediately after He comes, Christ will descend upon Edom to deliver the Jewish remnant hiding in and around the city of Petra (Isaiah 34:1-7; 63:1-5; Joel 3:19)
 - Phase 7: End of the Beasts
 - The Antichrist and the False Prophet will be seized and cast alive into the lake of fire, where they will be tormented forever (Revelation 19:20). Just as there were two men in the Old Testament who went directly to heaven without dying (Enoch and Elijah), so these two men will go directly to hell without dying.

4. The Battle Aftermath

- After the terrible fighting, all that will be left will be the corpses and weapons of the armies of the world.
- It is impossible for us to envision the scope of the carnage.
- The final humiliation of the Lord's enemies is what we might call "The Great Vulture Supper" (Matthew 24:28; Luke 17:37; Revelation 19:17-21)
- A rotting mass of humanity will fill the entire region.

Conclusion:

The War of Armageddon will be the climatic event of the great Tribulation. The armies of the world will gather in Israel and be destroyed by the returning King of kings.

This world has an appointment with destiny. It is on the road to Armageddon. When we repent of our sins and put our faith in Jesus Christ, God graciously transfers us from the road to Armageddon to the road to glory. The good news is that Jesus is coming someday, perhaps today, to take His own out of this world to heaven before the road to Armageddon dead-ends.

THE MILLENNIUM

Man has always dreamed of utopia. We aspire to create a great society, a paradise on earth, a return to the Garden of Eden. But both the Bible and the witness of history are clear that sinful man can never produce such a society on earth. Paradise is lost, and man in his own efforts can never regain it.

However, God's Word tells us that the next great event after the Second Coming is just such a paradise. Jesus will establish on earth a 1,000 year reign of glory and peace (Revelation 20:1-6). The millennial age will bring about the complete fulfillment of all that God has promised to the nation of Israel in the Old Testament.

Let's consider some of the most frequently asked questions about this unprecedented, thousand-year period.

I. What Will the Millennium Be Like?

- During the millennial reign of Christ, the earth will experience a return to conditions like the Garden of Eden.
- Literally Heaven on Earth
- 10 most prominent conditions
 - Peace
 - Joy
 - Holiness
 - Glory
 - Justice and Righteousness
 - Deeper Knowledge
 - No Sickness or Deformity
 - Universal Worship of God
 - Economic Prosperity
 - The Presence of God

2. What Will Everyday Life Be Like?

A. The Millennium will be Unique Because of Who is There

- The millennium will be inhabited at the outset by 2 groups of believers
 - Group I
 - Believers who have survived the tribulation period on earth
 - These people will enter the kingdom in their natural, physical bodies
 - They will live in houses, do work, marry, have children, and possibly die, just as people have done since the beginning.
 - They will still possess the sinful nature, therefore they will sin during the millennium, despite the fact that Satan will not be tempting them. But Jesus will deal with it swiftly.

- Group 2
 - Those who died or were raptured= Us!
 - We will already have our new, glorified bodies
 - No longer have sinful nature, thus won't sin!
 - Will rule with Christ (below)
 - Possibly Group 2 will rule over Group 1 in some way
 - With glorified bodies can move and possibly go back and forth from Heaven to Earth
 - We will exist side by side (glorified/unglorified bodies)

- B. Jesus will Personally Be Present on Earth Ruling from Jerusalem
 - All nations and people will flood to Jerusalem to pay homage

- C. All Men Will Be Required to Submit to the King
 - *“Now then, you kings, act wisely! Be warned, you rulers of the earth! I I Serve the LORD with reverent fear, and rejoice with trembling. I 2 Submit to God’s royal son, or He will become angry, and you will be destroyed in the midst of your pursuits—for His anger can flare up in an instant. But what joy for all who find protection in Him!” Psalm 2:10-12*

- D. People Who are in Natural Bodies Will Have Extended Life Spans
 - Group 1 will be restored to life spans prior to the flood
 - The Bible says during that time 100 was untimely death (Isaiah 65:20)
 - I believe that those who submit to God will live for entire 1000 yrs
 - They will then receive glorified bodies
 - Flesh and blood can't enter the spiritual realm of heaven (I Cor. 15:50)

- E. Not All People Born During the Millennium Will Become Disciples
 - Some will not submit to Christ
 - Those who outwardly rebel will be judged quickly by the Lord
 - No war or insurrection will be tolerated by the King
 - Those who have disagreements or grievances will go straight to the Lord
 - We know they still will rebel, because when Satan is released he will have no problem finding followers

- F. People Can Get Sick
 - Jesus will be Great Physician however

- G. Everything Will Revolve Around the King

3. Why Must There Be a Millennium?

A. To Reward the Faithful

- During the millennial kingdom, the saints (us) will be awarded portions of authority based on their degree of faithfulness in this life.
- We will reign with Christ!

B. To Redeem Creation

- To reverse the curse
- Romans 8:19-22 (Read)
- Lion and the Lamb lie together
- A child can play next to a poisonous snake without fear
- Whole earth will become a huge Garden of Eden

C. To Recognize the Promises of God

- 3 great unconditional, unilateral, eternal covenants that will find their fulfillment in the millennial kingdom
- Were made with Abraham, David, and nation of Israel
 - Abrahamic Covenant
 - God promised Abraham 3 things
 - Descendants- would become a great nation
 - Land- given a piece of land forever... not fulfilled in earth will be at millennium
 - Blessing- All the world will be blessed
 - The Davidic Covenant
 - Someone from his family will sit on the throne
 - God promised David He would give him a
 - House- This refers to David's royal family
 - Throne- This refers to David's authority to rule
 - Kingdom- This refers to David's political kingdom, which is Israel.
 - The New Covenant
 - At Mount Sinai God gave Moses the old covenant, 800 yrs later through the prophet Jeremiah, God promised that He would make a new covenant someday with the house of Israel and the house of Judah
 - When Jesus died on the cross, He instituted the New Covenant in His blood.
 - God's new covenant promise also contains 3 promises...
 - The Forgiveness of Sins- God will forgive Israel for her sins
 - The Indwelling Spirit- God will place His Spirit in the hearts of the people to personally instruct them in His way.
 - A New Heart- God will give His people a new, clean heart with His law inscribed upon it.

- D. To Reaffirm Total Depravity of Man
 - Read Revelation 20:7-10
 - Unbelievable that man can live in perfectness and still reject...

- 4. What Will We Be Doing?**
 - RULING and REIGNING
 - Daniel 7:18,22,27
 - I Corinthians 6:2-3
 - Revelation 2:26-28; 20:4,6
 - During this present age we are being tested by God to determine our future position of authority and responsibility in the Kingdom!
 - Some will be governors of 10 cities... Some will rule over 5
 - We will all reign, but the exact extent and responsibility of that reign is being determined right now in your life and mine.
 - A preacher once said, "This is training time for reigning time"

THE AFTERLIFE

What Happens to People When They Die?

- Death means separation
- It does not mean annihilation, destruction, or ceasing to exist
- A person who is SPIRITUALLY DEAD is spiritually SEPARATED from God
- When a person DIES PHYSICALLY he does not cease to exist
- There is separation between the material part (body) and the immaterial part (soul) of the person
- When the separation occurs, the body “falls asleep” and is buried, but the immaterial part of the person immediately goes to one of two places, depending upon the person’s relationship with Jesus Christ.
- The departed spirit of the believers in Christ goes immediately into the presence of the Lord.
 - Luke 16:22 “Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.”
 - Luke 23:43 “Today you will be with me in Paradise”
 - 2 Corinthians 5:8 “Absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord”
 - Philippians 1:21,23 “To die is gain... I am hard pressed between the two... to live or die and be with Christ”
- Until the Rapture, the departed believer exists in a spiritual or disembodied state
- Scripture likens it to being “naked” or “unclothed” (2 Cor. 5:1-5)
- So when Christ comes at the Rapture, the perfected spirits of the redeemed will be reunited with the resurrected, glorified bodies (1 Thess. 4:14-16)
- The spirits of the OT believers will be reunited at end of tribulation.
- The destiny of unbelievers is very different...
- When an unbeliever dies his departed spirit goes immediately into Hades to experience conscious, unrelenting torment.
- At the Great White Throne, the bodies of all the lost will be resurrected and joined with their spirits to appear before the Judge of the universe.

	<u>OT Believers</u>	<u>NT Believers</u>	<u>All Deceased UB</u>
Body	Asleep now; Resurrected at 2 nd coming	Asleep now; Resurrected at Rapture	Asleep now; Resurrected at end of millennium
Spirit	In Paradise now; Joined w/GB @ 2 nd coming	In Paradise now; joined w/GB @ Rapture	In Hades now; Joined w/RB @ Great White Throne

* UB= Unbelievers GB= Glorified Body RB= Resurrected Body

WHAT IS HELL LIKE?

USA Today study on: Is there a hell?

- 52% of adults are certain there's a hell
- 27% of adults think there might be

Next question: What will it be like?

- 48% believe it's a real place where people suffer eternal torment
- 46% say it's just an anguished state of existence not actual place
- 6% don't know

Many have come up with their own ideas and theories...

- Woody Allen...
 - "Hell is Manhattan at Rush hour. There is no question there is an unseen world. The question is, how far is it from midtown and how late does it stay open?"

While people might make light of Hell, the Bible gives us a terrifying glimpse, and it is no joking matter...

FACT #1: HELL IS A LITERAL PLACE

- 11 of 12 times gehenna (hell) is spoken from the lips of Jesus
- Jesus certainly believed it was a real place.

FACT #2: HELL IS A LITERAL PLACE DIVIDED INTO AT LEAST 4 PARTS

- 4 Greek words describe this place. All show unique division.
 - The Abyss or Bottomless Pit
 - NT refers to this part of hell 9 times
 - A place where some demons are presently confined who will be released for a period of months to afflict the lost during Tribulation.
 - Also place where Satan will be bound for duration of Millennium
 - Tartarus
 - 2 Peter 2:4 refers to Tartarus as a place of confinement where the angels who sinned in Genesis 6:1-4 are being held until they are finally cast into the lake of fire
 - Hades
 - Greek NT refers to Hades 11 times. This is the place where the souls of lost people are presently confined while they await the final day of judgment.
 - Gehenna
 - This is the most commonly used Greek word for Hell in NT; used 12 times

- Gehenna is the final place of torment for Satan, demons, and all the lost.
- Gehenna is also called “the lake of fire and brimstone,” “the lake of fire” and the “2nd death”
- Called 2nd death because it is the place of final eternal separation from God.

FACT #3: HELL IS A PLACE OF MEMORY

- Will be continued awareness and consciousness of where one is.
- The rich man knew WHERE he was, and WHO he was...
- Personal identity will remain
- There will be memory
- He remembered Lazarus and his brothers.

FACT #4: HELL IS A PLACE OF TORMENT

- Will be torment and agony
- Luke 16:24 & 28

FACT #5: HELL IS A PLACE OF UNQUENCHABLE FIRE

- NT is clear that hell will be a fire
- Matthew 13:41-42
- Mark 9:47-49

FACT #6: HELL IS A PLACE OF SEPARATION FROM GOD

- 2 Thessalonians 1:9

FACT #7: HELL IS A PLACE OF UNSPEAKABLE MISERY, SORROW, ANGER, AND FRUSTRATION

- Weeping and gnashing of teeth

FACT #8: HELL IS A PLACE OF RAGING THIRST

- Luke 16:24

FACT #9: HELL IS THE ONLY OTHER PLACE TO SPEND ETERNITY BESIDES HEAVEN

- Only 2 options!
- No purgatory!

FACT #10: HELL IS A PLACE FROM WHICH THERE IS NO ESCAPE

- No parole, no 2nd chance
- As the old saying goes... "As death finds us, eternity keeps us. Hell is truth seen too late."
- Luke 16:26
- Only way to escape is through Jesus Christ on this earth.

HEAVEN

In a *Time* magazine article, “Does Heaven Exist?”, people were asked questions about Heaven. Here were a few responses:

- Do you believe in the existence of Heaven, where people live forever with God after they die?
 - Yes 81%
 - No 13%
- Where do you believe you will go when you die?
 - Heaven 68%
 - Hell 3%
- Which of the following do you believe are in Heaven?
 - Angels 93%
 - St. Peter 79%
 - Harps 43%
 - Halos 36%

3 important questions about Heaven

I. What Will Heaven Be Like?

- Revelation 21-22 gives us the best descriptions of heaven
- But these are still merely glimpses
- They do reveal 5 key aspects
 - Number One: The Splendor of Heaven
 - Heaven will be a glorious, splendid place, both because of what is there, and what is not there
 - There are 11 things that won't be there:
 - Sea, sin, death, mourning, crying, pain, night, temple, curse, sun, or moon.
 - One main thing, that will be there.... GLORY OF GOD
 - Heaven will be ablaze with God's radiance
 - The dazzling brilliance of the Lord will shine and glimmer in the city like a diamond
 - Number Two: The Sights of Heaven
 - There's a guided tour of the 7 key sights from Rev. 21:9-22:5
 - The Wall
 - The wall is 216 feet thick and 1,500 miles high (7 million feet)
 - The wall tells us that heaven is a place of security
 - The Gates (v. 12-13)
 - Each of Heaven's 12 gates is each made of a single pearl
 - Every gate is guarded by an angel (no mention of Peter at the pearly gates)

- And each one is inscribed with one of the names of the 12 tribes of Israel
 - Gates speak of access to Heaven
- The Foundation (v. 14)
 - Each of the 12 foundation stones is fashioned from a different precious stone
 - Each inscribed with one of the names of the 12 apostles
 - The foundation illustrates heaven's stability and performance
- The Street
 - There is only one street in heaven
 - It is made of gold so pure that it's like transparent glass
 - The street reveals that Heaven is a place of movement and travel
- The River
 - A river literally runs through it
 - The river brings eternal refreshment
- The Throne
 - God is seated on His throne as the monarch of the universe
 - The throne reveals God's sovereignty
- The Tree
 - Man was banned from the tree of life in Genesis 3, but access to the tree is restored in the heavenly paradise in Rev. 2:7 and 22:2
- Number Three: The Size of Heaven
 - The size of the Heavenly city is 1,500 miles on each side
 - To give you a sense of scale... the moon is 2,160 miles in diameter
 - So the city is like an enormous floating continent almost as big as the moon coming down to settle on the new Earth
 - The shape of the city is a perfect cube
 - 2.25 million square miles
 - Has enough room to accommodate 100,000 billion people
 - There will be plenty of room in heaven
- Number Four: The Substance of Heaven
 - Heaven won't have any cinderblocks, shag carpet, or particle board
 - Only the best materials in the universe will do for the dwelling place of our glorious God.
 - Here's an overview of the building materials
 - Wall- diamond
 - City- pure gold
 - Foundation- the stones of verse 19-20 (Rev. 21)
 - Gates- 12 pearls
 - Street- pure gold

- Number Five: The Sanctity of Heaven
 - Refers to it's holiness and separation
 - No evil will be present
 - Not everyone will be there
 - Only those who've repented of their sins and put their faith in Christ
 - No Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Atheists, etc...

2. What Will We Do in Heaven?

- This is one of the most asked questions about Heaven
- Will there be football? Will I get bored? Will I be strumming a harp?
- Here is how a few children responded to the Question...
 - "You can do anything you want silly!"
 - "You can eat candy, and don't get fat or get cavities"
 - "You water-skate all day long!", When asked what's water-skating? She smiled shyly and replied, "You'll find out!"
 - "You play the harp all day long, whether you like it or not"
 - "You have to paint clouds"
- Before we explain what we will do, let's explain what we won't
 - Never sin
 - Never make mistakes
 - Never have to apologize
 - Never need to confess
 - No need to repair anything
 - Never have to rescue others
 - No more fighting Satan or demons
 - No more loneliness
 - No more depression
 - No more fatigue
- Although Bible doesn't tell us everything we'll do
- It does tell us 6 things...
 - Number One: Singing
 - A place of unending worship
 - Even those who can't sing!
 - Number Two: Serving
 - No more dead-end jobs
 - We will all enjoy it!
 - Exact job descriptions never described
 - Number Three: Supervising
 - Not only for millennium
 - But we will rule with Christ forever!
 - Number Four: Sharing
 - Perfect fellowship
 - Perfect church
 - Number Five: Studying
 - We will spend eternity learning more about God and His ways

- God will always be infinite and we will always be finite
 - So we will always be learning more about His wonders & majesty
- Number Six: Being Served
 - No mention of believers serving each other in Heaven
 - Only us serving God and God serving us!
- So while the jury is still out on football, chocolate, and “water-skating” in Heaven
- We do know we’ll be Singing, Serving, Supervising, Sharing, Studying, and Being Served
- Don’t know about you... But I can’t wait!!!