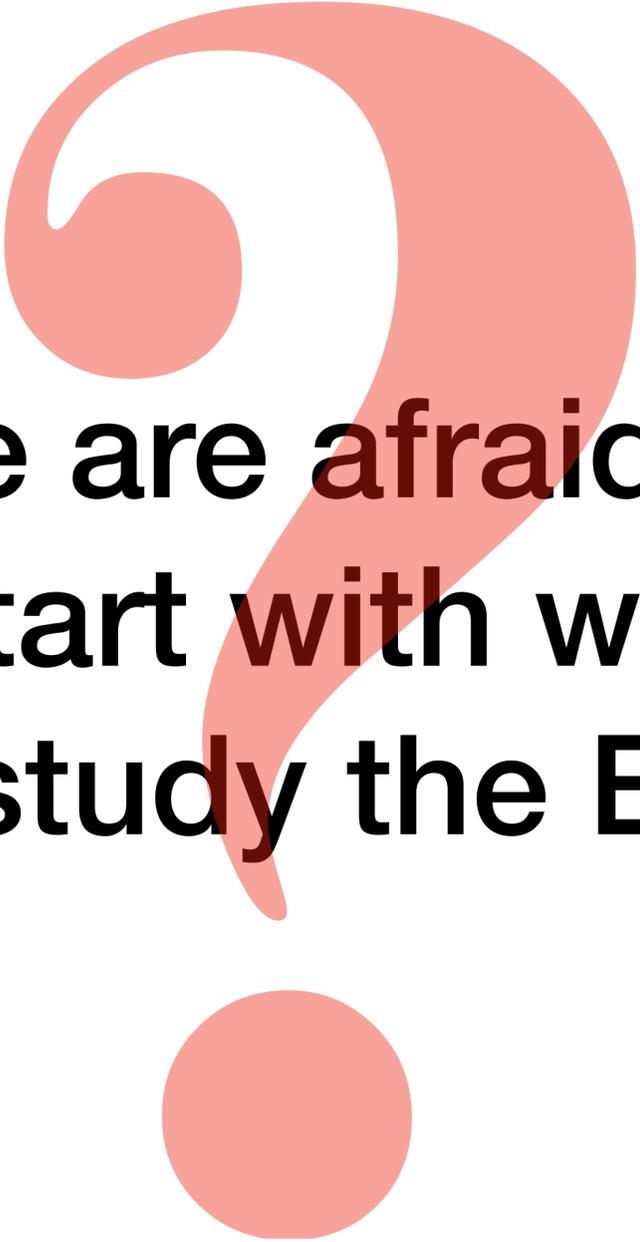


# **End-Times Timeline**

**with Joel Richardson**

- 
1. A lot of people are afraid to study End-Times. Let's start with why is it important for people to study the End-Times.

**There are 1,817 prophecies in the Bible in  
8,352 verses.**

**There are a total of 31,124 verses in the Bible.**

**That means that 26.8 percent of the Bible is  
prophecy.**

**Jesus expects His followers to be able to discern the signs of the times so as to recognize the season of His return:**

**“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.”**

**(Matthew 24:32–33)**

**Jesus actually rebuked His listeners for not being able to discern the prophetic signs of the times:**

**He replied to them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ “And in the morning, ‘There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?”**

**(Matthew 16:2–3)**

**To study the End-Times is to study the Gospel  
("Good-News") itself.**

**The "End-Times" is not only about the scary events  
that come before Jesus' coming, but also includes His  
coming and the glories to follow.**

**Jesus died so that we may inherit eternal life in the  
kingdom that will be established after He returns.**

# “The End-Times”

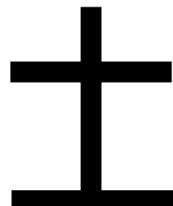
The Return  
of Jesus

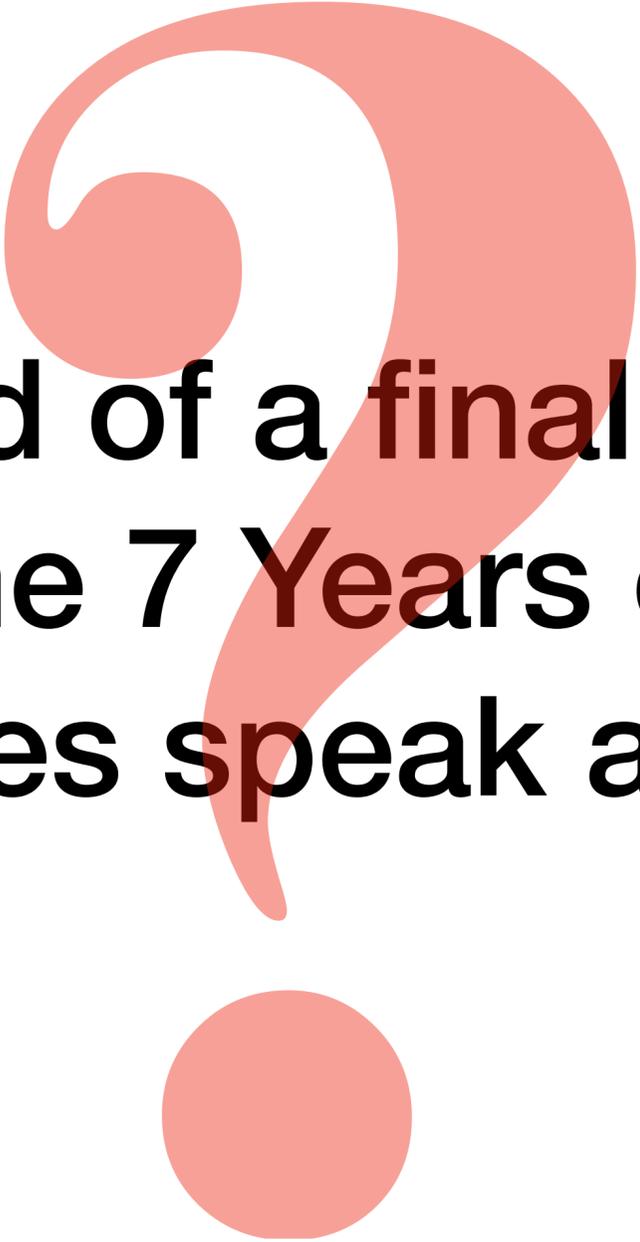
Signs that Precede  
the Return of Jesus

The  
Kingdom of God

Jesus died so that  
we may inherit this:

Eternal Life  
Our Hope, Our Inheritance, Our Destiny





**2. We have heard of a final 7 year period, often called the 7 Years of Tribulation. What Scriptures speak about these 7 years?**

**There are actually two questions here:**

**Where does the Bible speak of a “Great Tribulation” in the Last-Days?**

**Where does the Bible specifically designate this period to last for seven years?**

**The Old Testament basis for the concept of  
“The Great Tribulation” begins in the  
prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Daniel**

**Isaiah uses the language of birth pains and  
labor to describe the distress or tribulation  
that comes before His return, the  
resurrection, and the redemption of all the  
world.**

O Lord, they sought You in distress; they could only whisper a prayer, Your chastening was upon them.

As the pregnant woman approaches the time to give birth, She writhes and cries out in her labor pains, thus were we before You, O Lord. We were pregnant, we writhed in labor, We gave birth, as it seems, only to wind. We could not accomplish deliverance for the earth, Nor were inhabitants of the world born. And will no longer cover her slain.

(Isaiah 26:16–18)

Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise.

You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy,

For your dew is as the dew of the dawn,  
And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits.

Come, my people, enter into your rooms

And close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while

Until indignation runs its course.

For behold, the Lord is about to come out from His place

To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity;

and the earth will reveal her bloodshed

(Isaiah 26:19-21)

“Before she travailed, she brought forth;  
Before her pain came, she gave birth to a boy.

“Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day?

Can a nation be brought forth all at once?

As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons. “Shall I bring to the point of birth and not give delivery?” says the Lord. “Or shall I who gives delivery shut the womb?” says your God.

(Isaiah 66:7–9)

**“Be joyful with Jerusalem and rejoice for her, all you who love her; be exceedingly glad with her, all you who mourn over her, that you may nurse and be satisfied with her comforting breasts, that you may suck and be delighted with her bountiful bosom.” For thus says the Lord, “Behold, I extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you will be nursed, you will be carried on the hip and fondled on the knees. “As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you will be comforted in Jerusalem.”**

**(Isaiah 66:10-13)**

Now these are the words which the Lord spoke  
concerning Israel and concerning Judah:

“For thus says the Lord, ‘I have heard a sound of  
terror, of dread, and there is no peace. Ask now, and  
see if a male can give birth. Why do I see every man  
With his hands on his loins, as a woman in childbirth?

And why have all faces turned pale?

‘Alas! for that day is great, There is none like it;

And it is the time of Jacob’s distress,

But he will be saved from it.

(Jeremiah 30:4–7)

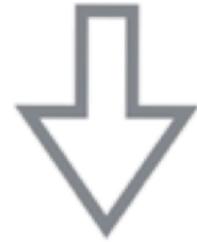
**“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.**

**“Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.**

**(Daniel 12:1–2)**

**In Daniel 12, the angel Gabriel quotes both  
Isaiah and Jeremiah and speaks of the  
resurrection taking place after the  
Antichrist's reign of terror.**

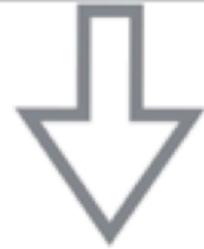
**there will be a time of distress  
such as never occurred  
since there was a nation until that time;  
and at that time your people ...  
will be rescued.  
(Daniel 12:1)**



**'Alas! for that day is great,  
there is none like it;  
and it is the time of Jacob's distress,  
but he will be saved from it.  
(Jeremiah 30:7)**



**“Many of those who sleep in  
the dust of the ground will awake”  
(Daniel 12:2)**



**“You who lie in the dust, awake”  
(Isaiah 26:6)**



**Jesus then draws from all of them:**

**As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives,  
the disciples came to Him privately, saying,  
“Tell us, when will these things happen, and  
what will be the sign of Your coming, and of  
the end of the age?””**

**(Matthew 24:3)**

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), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house ... For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

(Matthew 24:15–21)

**Gabriel:**

And there will be a  
time of distress  
such as never  
occurred since  
there was a nation  
until that time  
(Daniel 12:1–2)

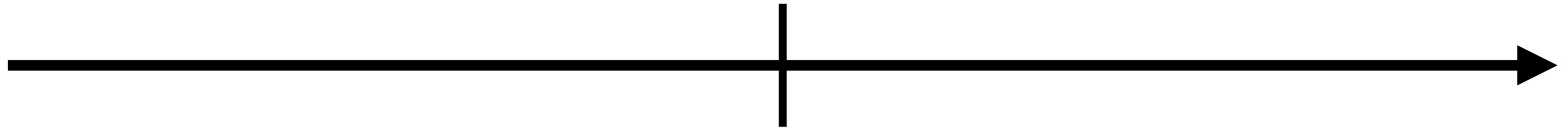
**Jesus:**

then there will be a  
great tribulation, such  
as has not occurred  
since the beginning  
of the world until  
now, nor ever will.  
(Matthew 24:17, 21)

**The Great  
Tribulation**

**The Resurrection  
of the Dead**

**The Age  
of Redemption**



**Travails of Labor**

**Birth**



**3. Where does the Bible specifically say this period will last seven years?**

**The concept is found in both Daniel and Revelation. Daniel informs us that a period of seven years is set apart in the Last Days, with the second half (3.5 years) comprising the actual tribulation.**

**“Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.**

**“So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.**

**(Daniel 9:24–25)**

**“Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.**

**“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”**

**(Daniel 9:26–27)**

**‘He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.**

**(Daniel 7:25)**

Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank of the river. And one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long will it be until the end of these wonders?” I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed.

(Daniel 12:5–7)

**From the time that the regular sacrifice is  
abolished and the abomination of  
desolation is set up, there will be 1,290  
days. How blessed is he who keeps waiting  
and attains to the 1,335 days!**

**(Daniel 12:11–12)**

**“And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”**

**(Revelation 11:3)**

**Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.**

**(Revelation 11:2)**

**But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.**

**(Revelation 12:14)**

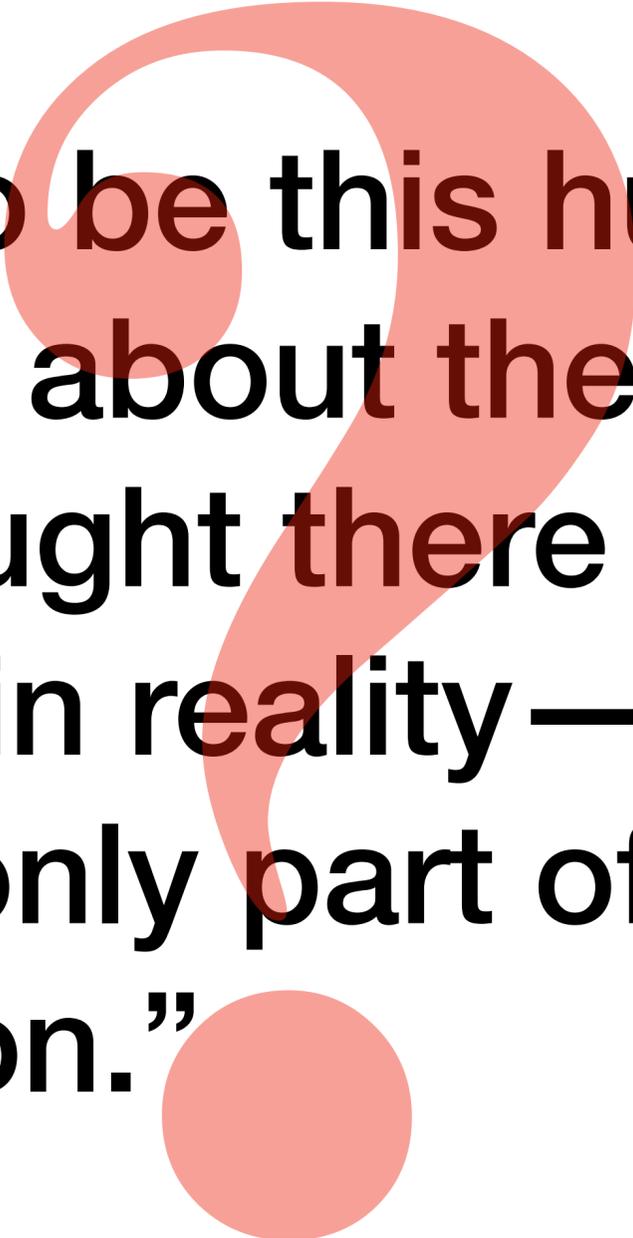
**There was given to him a mouth speaking  
arrogant words and blasphemies, and  
authority to act for forty-two months was  
given to him.**

**(Revelation 13:5)**

“Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city...

“And he [Antichrist] will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

(Daniel 9:24, 27)



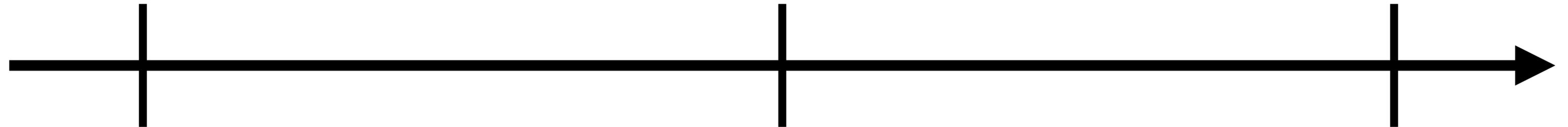
4. There seems to be this huge misconception about the final 7 years. We've been taught there is 7 years of tribulation but in reality—according to Matthew 24—only part of this actually “The Great Tribulation.”

# Final Seven Years

**Beginning of the  
Seven Years**

**Middle of the Week**

**End of the  
Seven Years**



**Beginning of  
Birth Pangs**

**The Great Tribulation  
Full Travails of  
Labor**

**Abomination that  
Causes Desolation**



**5. What needs to happen to kick off these 7 years and what should we be looking out for?**

**“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”**

**(Daniel 9:24–27)**

**“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week” (NASB)**

**“And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week” (ESV)**

**“He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven’.” (NIV)**

**“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week”  
(KJV)**



**6. Does a new temple need to be built on the temple mount before this 7 year period starts and if so where do we find that in the Bible?**

**The Bible is very clear that sacrifices will be reestablished in the Temple in Jerusalem. While it may very well be a brick and mortar structure, it could also be something as simple as a tent.**

**Daniel in particular lays the foundation for this concept mentioning the following concepts four times: (1) “The Abomination that Causes Desolation” and (2) “the ceasing of offerings.”**

Out of one of them came forth a rather small horn which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the Beautiful Land. It grew up to the host of heaven and caused some of the host and some of the stars to fall to the earth, and it trampled them down. It even magnified itself to be equal with the Commander of the host; and it removed the regular sacrifice from Him, and the place of His sanctuary was thrown down. And on account of transgression the host will be given over to the horn along with the regular sacrifice; and it will fling truth to the ground and perform its will and prosper.

(Daniel 8:9–11)

Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to that particular one who was speaking, “How long will the vision about the regular sacrifice apply, while the transgression causes horror, so as to allow both the holy place and the host to be trampled?” He said to me, “For 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the holy place will be properly restored.”

(Daniel 8:12–14)

**“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”**

**(Daniel 9:24–27)**

**“Forces from him will arise, deseccrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.”**

**(Daniel 11:31)**

**“From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.”**

**(Daniel 12:11)**

**In the New Testament, Jesus, Paul, and John all build upon Daniel's prophecy:**

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), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains. Whoever is on the housetop must not go down to get the things out that are in his house ... For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.

(Matthew 24:15–21)

**Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.**

**(2 Thessalonians 2:4)**

Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, “Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.”

(Revelation 11:1-2)

## ***naós or hierón***

**Used specifically of the Temple in Jerusalem 104 times.**

**Used for a heathen temple or shrine 3 times.**

**Used metaphorically to refer to a spiritual temple; either Christ, individual Christians, or the Church 9 times.**

**Some have argued that because “temple” is sometimes used metaphorically in the New Testament, that the Antichrist might not actually sit in the literal Temple in Jerusalem. This is nonsense. There is no way that the references to the Temple and the Abomination that Causes desolation in Daniel can be understood as referring to anything other than the literal Temple in Jerusalem. A Temple will most assuredly be rebuilt.**



**7. Let's talk about the Rapture. Explain this event "the rapture."**

**“The rapture” is an English term used to describe the moment when believers will rise to meet the Lord Jesus in the clouds.**

**The origin of the term comes from Paul's comments in 1 Thessalonians in which he uses the Greek word *harpazo* meaning “to snatch away” or “to seize.” Paul also explained the rapture in some detail in 1 Corinthians 15.**

**The Old Testament taught two things:**

**(1) Someday God would “come” from heaven to save His people.**

**(2) Someday the righteous dead would be resurrected or raised back to life out of the earth.**

## **The New Testament explains**

**(1) That both of these things occur together at the same time.**

**(2) How those who are alive when God comes will actually experience the resurrection. They will be transformed and “caught up to meet the Lord in the air.”**

**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. 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. 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.**

**(Matthew 24:29–31)**

**“But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming...”**

**(1 Corinthians 15:20–23)**

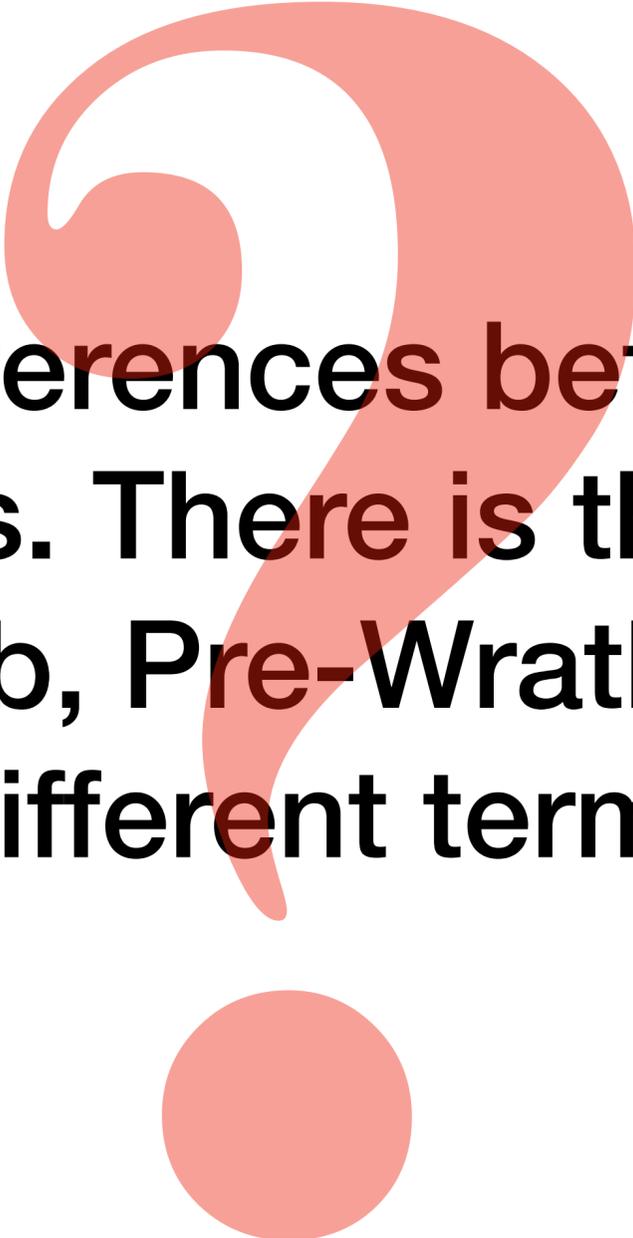
**Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**

**(1 Corinthians 15:51–52)**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 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 fallen asleep. 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. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up (*Harpazo*) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

(1 Thessalonians 4:13–18)



**8. What are the differences between the different rapture positions. There is the Pre-Tribulational Rapture, Mid-Trib, Pre-Wrath, and Post-Trib. What do these different terms mean?**

**These terms are all used to describe different beliefs concerning when the rapture will take place in relation to the final seven years.**

# The Pre-Tribulational Rapture

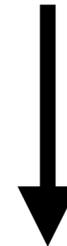
**The Rapture**



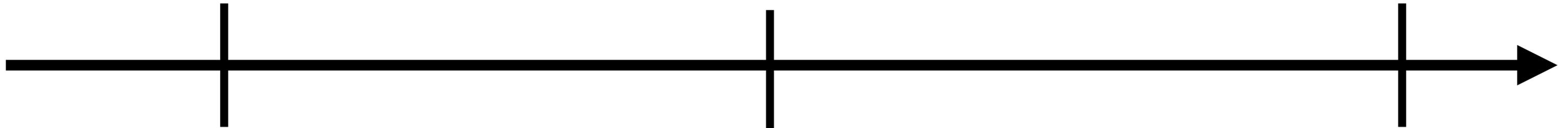
**Beginning of the  
Seven Years**

**Middle of  
the Seven Years**

**Return of Jesus**



**End of the  
Seven Years**



# The Mid-Tribulational Rapture

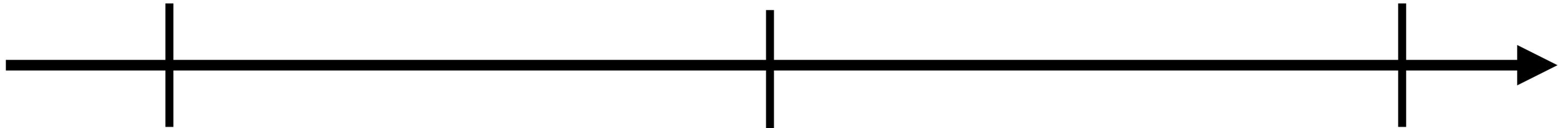
**The Rapture**

**Return of Jesus**

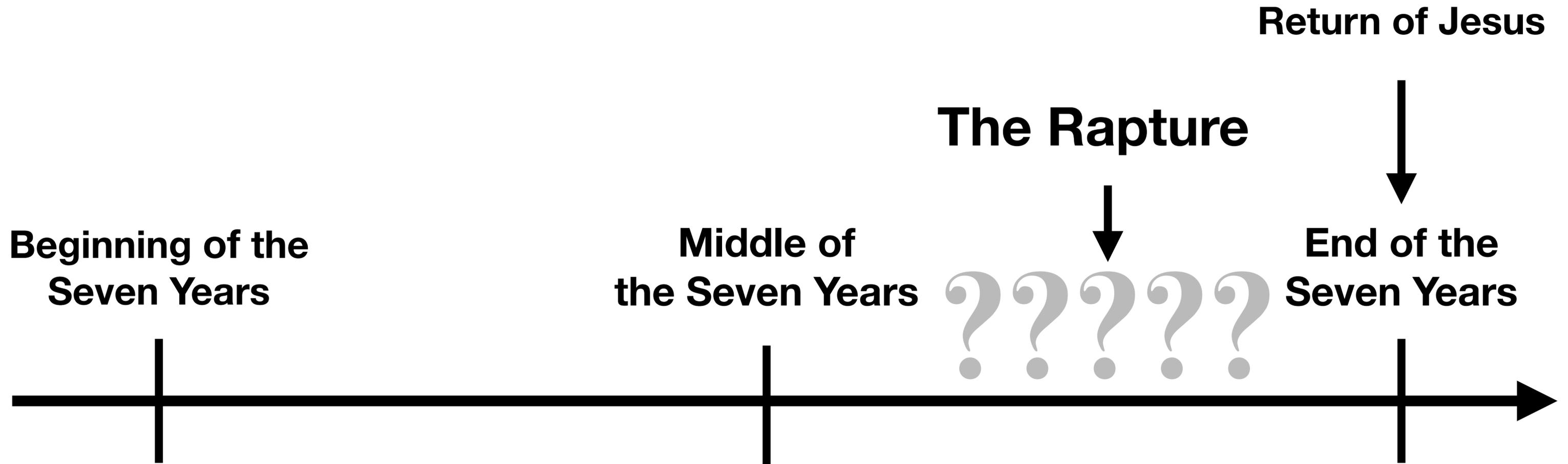
**Beginning of the  
Seven Years**

**Middle of  
the Seven Years**

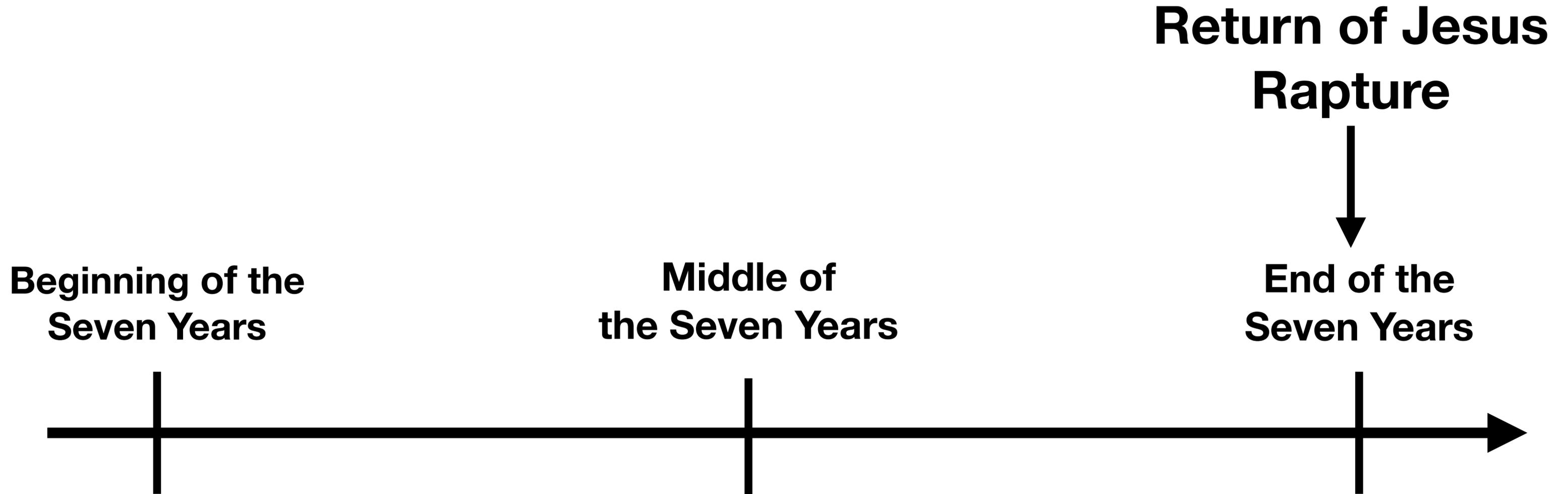
**End of the  
Seven Years**

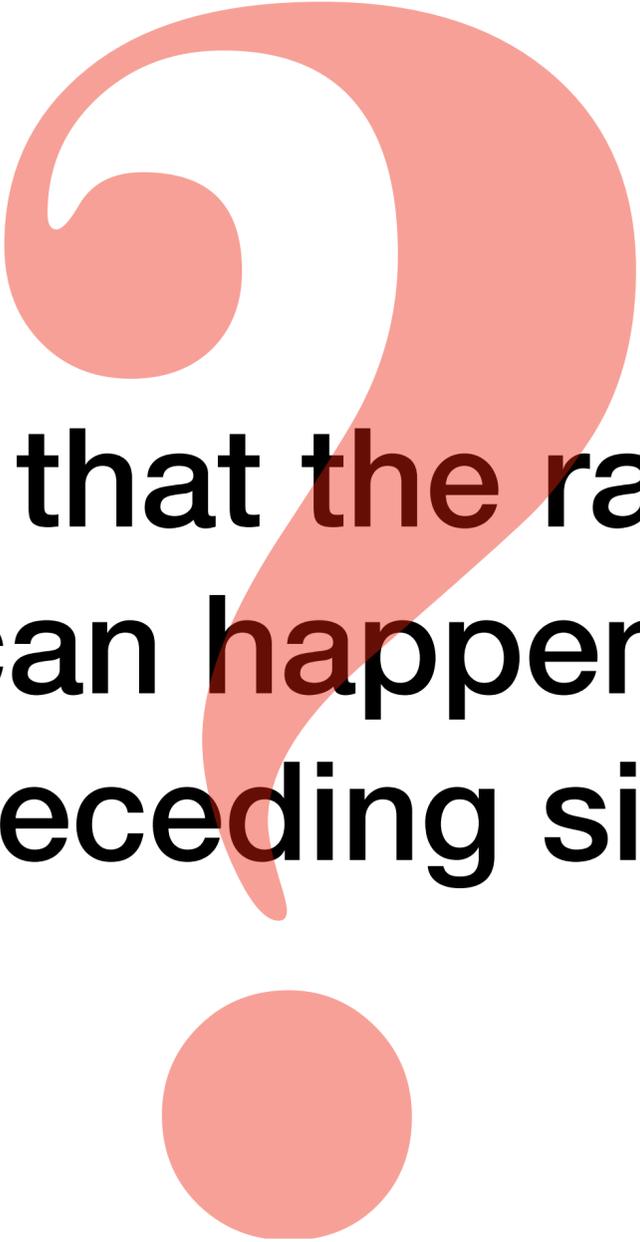


# The Pre-Wrath Rapture



# The Post-Tribulational Rapture





**9. We often hear that the rapture is imminent—it can happen at any moment, without any preceding signs. Is this true?**

**“The New Testament is consistent in its anticipation that the return of Christ might occur at any moment”  
—John MacArthur**

**“From the very earliest days of the church, the apostles and first-generation Christians nurtured an earnest expectation and fervent hope that Christ might suddenly return at any time to gather His church to heaven.”**

**—John MacArthur**

**Passages often cited to argue for imminency:**

**“You too, be patient and stand firm, because the  
Lord’s coming is near.”  
(James 5:8)**

**“...we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious  
appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus  
Christ”  
(Titus 2:13)**

**“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.”  
(Matthew 24:42)**

**“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”  
(Matthew 25:13)**

**“Imminence” as taught by those who teach the pre-tribulational rapture is entirely unbiblical.**

**Paul specifically said the rapture cannot happen unless the apostasy and the revealing of the Antichrist comes first.**

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

(2 Thessalonians 2:1–4)

**The terms “the day of the Lord” or “the coming of our Lord Jesus” are sometimes used broadly to refer to all of the events of the Last-Days.**

**So yes, the New Testament does call us to be prepared for the Lord's return. But it was well understood that this meant:**

**(1) Being prepared to face the great tests and tribulations that precede His coming.**

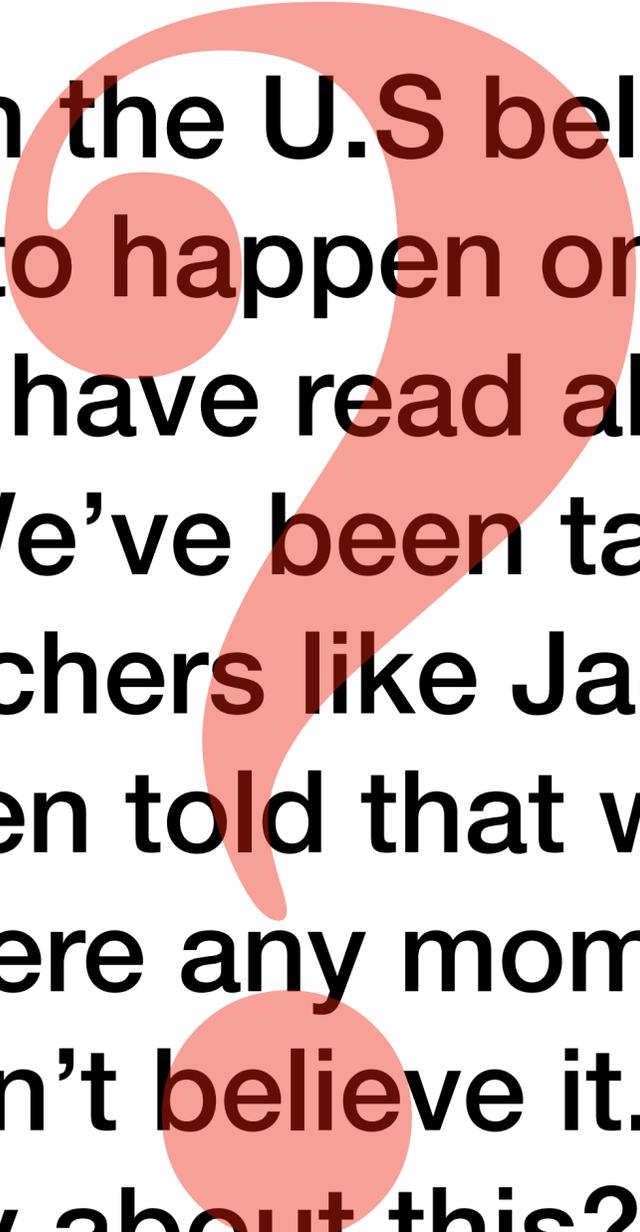
**(2) To make sure we are in the faith so as to escape the vengeance and judgment upon unbelievers that occurs when He returns.**

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief”

(1 Thessalonians 5:1–4)

**Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;  
(Matthew 3:5–8)**

**Various signs need to be fulfilled before Jesus can return. For example, in order for the Antichrist to enter into the covenant leading to the restoration of sacrifices in the Temple in Jerusalem, Israel had to be restored and repatriated by the Jewish people. Therefore, it would have been impossible for Jesus to have returned before Israel was reborn last century.**



10. Many churches in the U.S believe that the rapture is the next thing to happen on this prophetic timeline. Millions have read about it in the Left Behind series. We've been taught this from famous bible teachers like Jack Hibbs and Greg Laury. We've been told that we could be raptured out of here any moment. Could you share why we don't believe it. What does the Bible actually say about this?

**There is not a single verse in the entire Bible that teaches a pre-tribulational rapture. Period. Even leading pre-tribulational scholars admit this.**

**Jesus places the rapture after the  
tribulation:**

**“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. 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. 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.**

**(Matthew 24:29–31)**

**Paul tells us that Christians should expect relief from the trials and tribulations of this age to come specifically when Jesus is visibly revealed in flaming fire with His angels:**

**“...we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure. This is a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”**

**(2 Thessalonians 1:4–8)**

**We get our new bodies when Jesus returns,  
not seven years earlier:**

**But now Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the first fruits of those who are asleep. For  
since by a man came death, by a man also  
came the resurrection of the dead. For as in  
Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made  
alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first  
fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His  
coming.**

**(1 Corinthians 15:20–23)**

**Paul specifically tells us that the resurrection / rapture will happen after the apostasy and the Antichrist:**

**Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.**

**(2 Thessalonians 2:1–4)**

**The Bible says Jesus will remain in heaven until He returns and does two things:**

**(1) Restore all things.**

**(2) Crush His enemies.**

**“Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the restoration of all things about which God spoke through the mouth of His holy prophets long ago”  
(Acts 3:21)**

**“...this man after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God. He is now waiting until his enemies are made his footstool”  
(Hebrews 10:12–13)**

**The pre-trib rapture says Jesus leaves heaven to rapture the Church 7 years before these things. This violates the Word of God.**

**The pre-tribulational rapture also specifically violates the high priestly prayer of Jesus, who prayed for all believers NOT to be removed from the world, but instead to be kept from the evil one.**

**“I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one... I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word”  
(John 17:15–20)**

**The pre-tribulational rapture teaches that the first resurrection happens seven years before when the Bible says it takes place:**

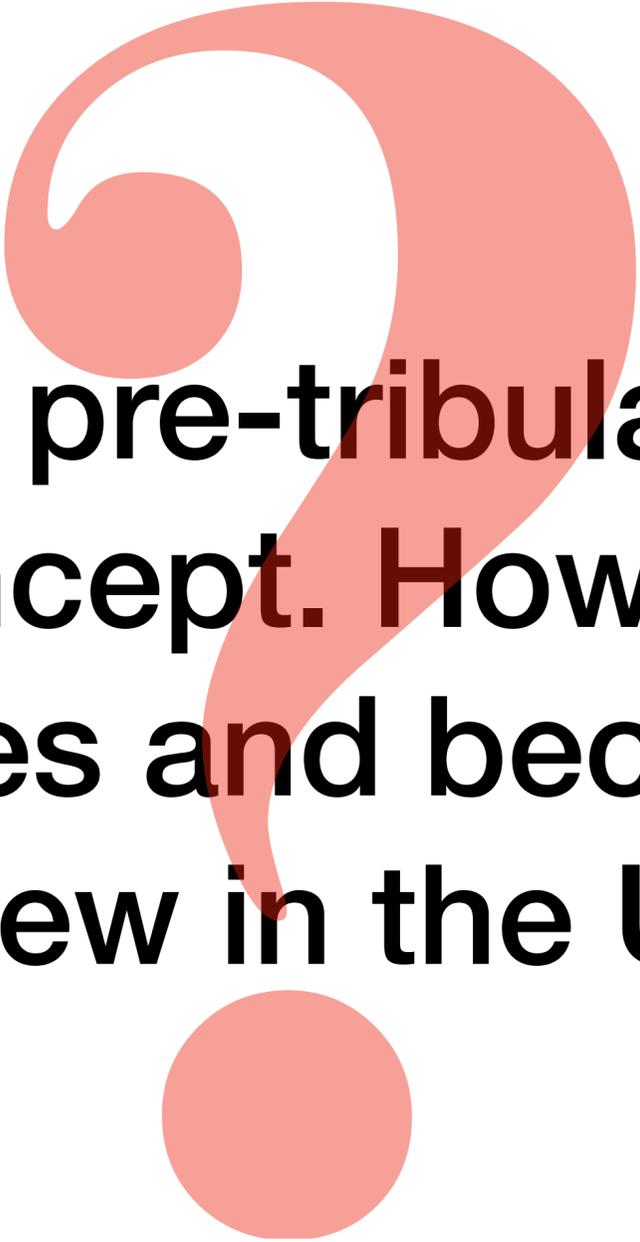
Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years ... This is the first resurrection.

(Revelation 20:4–5)

**The pre-tribulational rapture teaches that there are actually two more comings of Jesus; Scripture says there is only one.**

**“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation... to those who eagerly await Him.”**

**(Hebrews 9:27-28)**



**11. This idea of a pre-tribulation rapture is a fairly new concept. How did this get into the churches and become the most prevalent view in the United States?**

**First, the early Church universally expected the church to face the tribulation and Antichrist. A few early examples:**

## **The Didache (c.50–c.120)**

**“[T]hen shall appear the deceiver of the world [The Antichrist] ... and he shall commit iniquities which have never been since the world began. Then shall the creation of mankind come to the fiery trial and many shall be offended and be lost, but they who endure in their faith shall be saved ... Then shall the world see the Lord coming on the clouds of Heaven.”**

**(Didache 16:4–8)**

## **Epistle of Barnabas (c.80–c.100)**

**The final stumbling-block approaches ... We take earnest heed in these last days; for the whole time of your faith will profit you nothing, unless now in this wicked time we also withstand coming sources of danger, as becometh the sons of God. That the Black One [Antichrist] may find no means of entrance, let us flee from every vanity, let us utterly hate the works of the way of wickedness. Do not, by retiring apart, live a solitary life, as if you were already justified ... Take heed, lest resting at our ease, as those who are the called [of God], we should fall asleep in our sins, and the wicked prince, acquiring power over us, should thrust us away from the kingdom of the Lord.**

**(Epistle of Barnabas, 4)**

## **The Shepherd of Hermas (c.95–c.150)**

**“[Blessed are] you who endure the great tribulation that is coming on, and they who shall not deny their own life.”**

**“Those, therefore, who continue steadfast, and are put through the fire, will be purified by means of it.”  
(Vision 2:2; 4:3)**

## **Justin Martyr (c.110–c.165)**

**He [Jesus Christ] shall come from heaven with glory, when the man of apostasy [Antichrist], who speaks strange things against the Most High, shall venture to do unlawful deeds on the earth against us the Christians. (Dialogue with Trypho, CX)**

## **Irenaeus (c.120–c.202)**

**And they [the ten kings who serve the Antichrist] shall lay Babylon waste, and burn her with fire, and shall give their kingdom to the beast, and put the Church to flight.  
(Against Heresies, V, 26, 1)**

**And therefore, when in the end the Church shall be suddenly caught up from this, it is said, “There shall be tribulation such as has not been since the beginning, neither shall be.” For this is the last contest of the righteous, in which, when they overcome they are crowned with incorruption.  
(Against Heresies, V, 29, 1)**

## **Irenaeus (c.120–c.202)**

**“For all these and other words were unquestionably spoken in reference to the resurrection of the just, which takes place after the coming of Antichrist ... who have suffered tribulation, as well as escaped the hands of the Wicked one.”**

**(Against Heresies, V, 35, 1)**

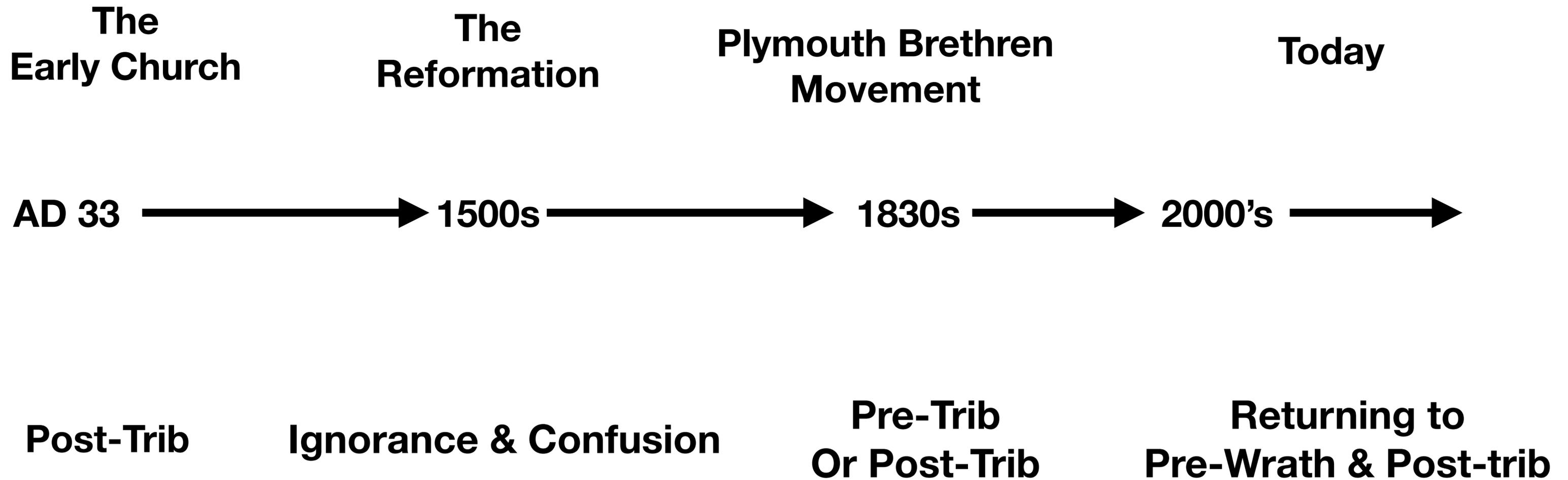
## **Hippolytus (c.185–c.235)**

**“For when the times advance, he too, [The Antichrist] of whom these things are said, will be manifested ... Now, concerning the tribulation of the persecution which is to fall upon the Church from the adversary ... That refers to the one thousand two hundred and threescore days during which the tyrant is to reign and persecute the Church. (Hippolytus, Treatise on Christ and Antichrist, 50, 60, 61, cf. 60–67!)**

## **Hippolytus (c.185–c.235)**

**When the times are fulfilled, and the ten horns spring from the beast in the last (times), then Antichrist will appear among them. When he makes war against the saints, and persecutes them, then may we expect the manifestation of the Lord from heaven. (On Daniel, II, 7)**

# History of Rapture Views in the Church





**12. Do you think this is a dangerous doctrine to teach people because people will not be prepared?**

**If Pre-Wrathers or Post-Tribbers are wrong, we will be pleasantly surprised.**

**If Pre-Tribbers are wrong, many will be greatly disappointed, confused, disillusioned, and potentially even shipwrecked.**

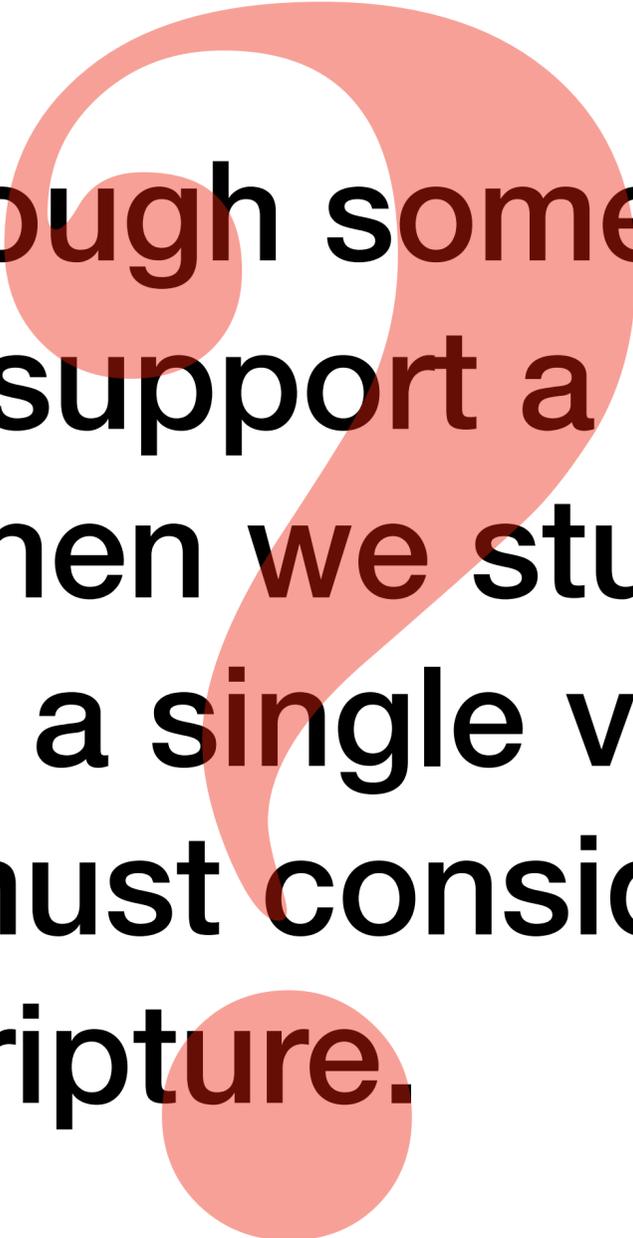
**The Pre-Tribulational view conflicts with the message of bearing our crosses and appeals to shallow, western, self-centered Christianity.**



**13. Do you think people are finally seeing the truth of what the Bible says about this? What is driving this shift?**

**Before the dawn of the internet, what most Christians believed about the rapture was largely determined by the pre-tribulation domination of most seminaries and the major publishing houses. If one was not pre-trib, they had a very hard time teaching in seminary or being published.**

**Today, with the information revolution, the internet, and decentralization of all things, many are studying on their own and leaving the pre-tribulation doctrine behind.**



**14. Let's work through some key verses often used to support a pre-trib rapture. Remember, when we study the Bible, we can't just take a single verse out of context, but must consider the full counsel of Scripture.**

**Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.**

**(Revelation 3:10)**

## **Context:**

**This verse was a promise specifically given to one particular Church in the 1st century – not to all Christians.**

**“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens: I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie— indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.**

**(Revelation 3:7–11)**

**No one in the church of Philadelphia was raptured to heaven in the 1st century.**

**Because the verse does not promise to rapture anyone. Rather it promises the preservation (keeping) from the destructive effects of tribulations.**

## **The Goshen Pattern:**

**“But I will not treat the Israelites the same as the Egyptians. There will not be any flies in Goshen, where my people live. In this way you will know that I, the Lord, am in this land.”**

**(Exodus 8:22)**

Canned foods "keep" or are "preserved" through the Winter, but still pass through it. They're not "raptured" into heaven to escape the Winter.

"keep"  
*tēréō:*

"to watch over, to guard"





**15. Does 1 Corinthians 15 speak of a pre-tribulational rapture?**

**Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.**

**(1 Corinthians 15:51-53)**

“they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 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.

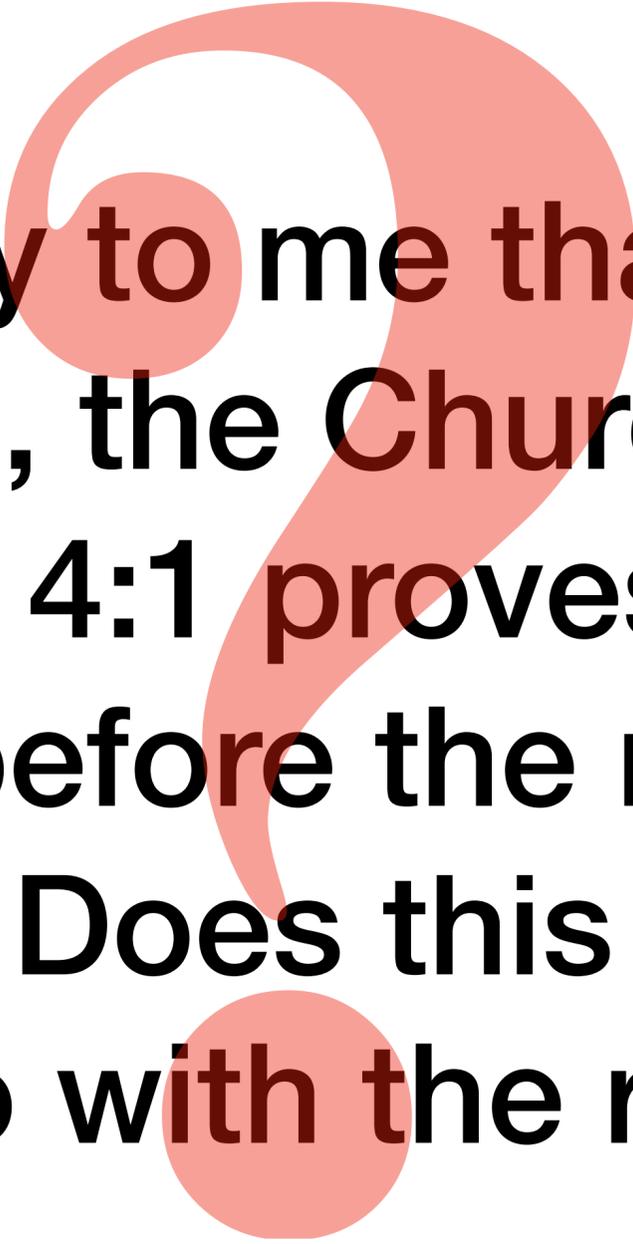
(Mat 24:29–31)

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

(1 Cor 15:51-53)

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

(1 Thes 4:14–18)



16. People will say to me that after Revelation 4:1, the Church is never seen again, so Rev. 4:1 proves that we are raptured out before the rest of the Book of Revelation. Does this verse have anything to do with the rapture?

**After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”**

**(Revelation 4:1)**

**This is a truly strange and very weak argument. Revelation 4:1 simply describes John being taken into heaven to be shown what will take place in the Last-Days. It says nothing about the rapture of the Church whatsoever.**

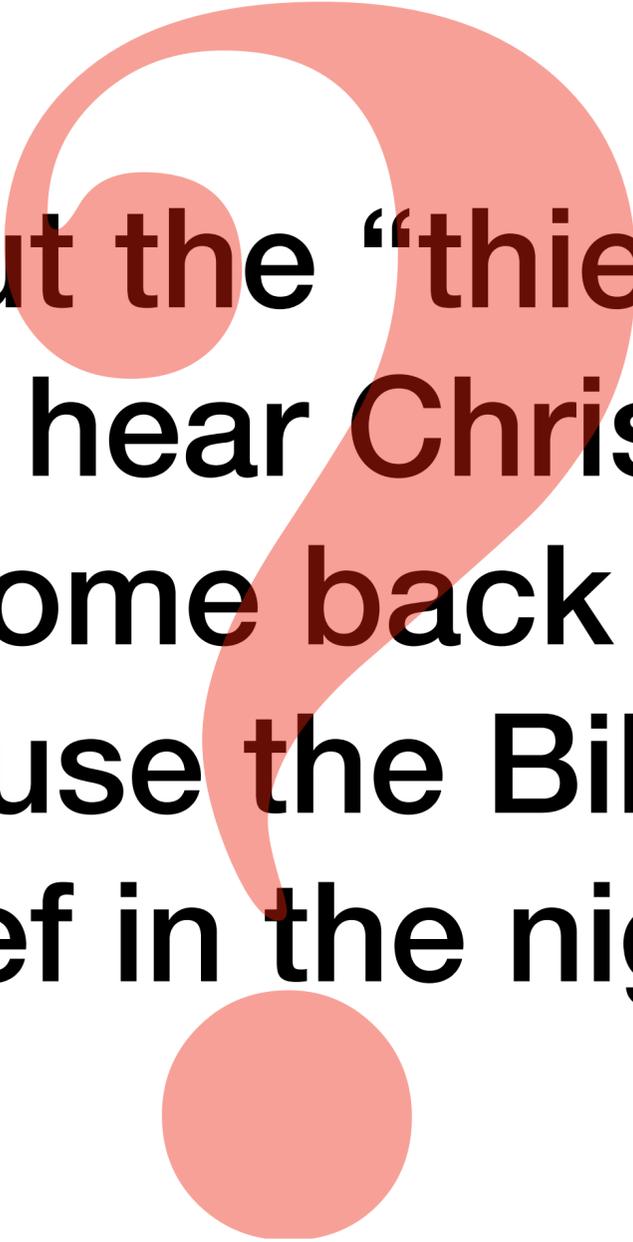
**John is also told to “come here” in Rev 17:1 and Rev 21:9**

**Secondly, although the word “Church” is almost never used throughout the rest of the Book of Revelation (except in 22:16), numerous other terms such as “saints,” “God’s people,” “our brethren,” or “God’s servants” are used multiple times throughout Revelation to describe the Church present on the earth throughout the tribulation.**

**“...the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night. And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even when faced with death.”**

**(Revelation 12:10–11)**

**“So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.”**  
**(Revelation 12:17)**



**17. Let's talk about the "thief in the night verse." I often hear Christians say that Jesus could come back and get us any moment because the Bible says He will come as a thief in the night.**

**This is a very common misconception among pre-tribbers. The Scriptures says that Jesus only comes as a thief for unbelievers:**

**Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.**

**(1 Thessalonians 5:1–5)**



**18. I hear a lot about the restrainer—can you talk about this?**

**Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**

**(2 Thessalonians 2:5-10)**

**There are various theories as to who or what the restrainer is.**

**Pre-tribbers claim this is the Holy Spirit, who will be removed from the world when the Church leaves.**

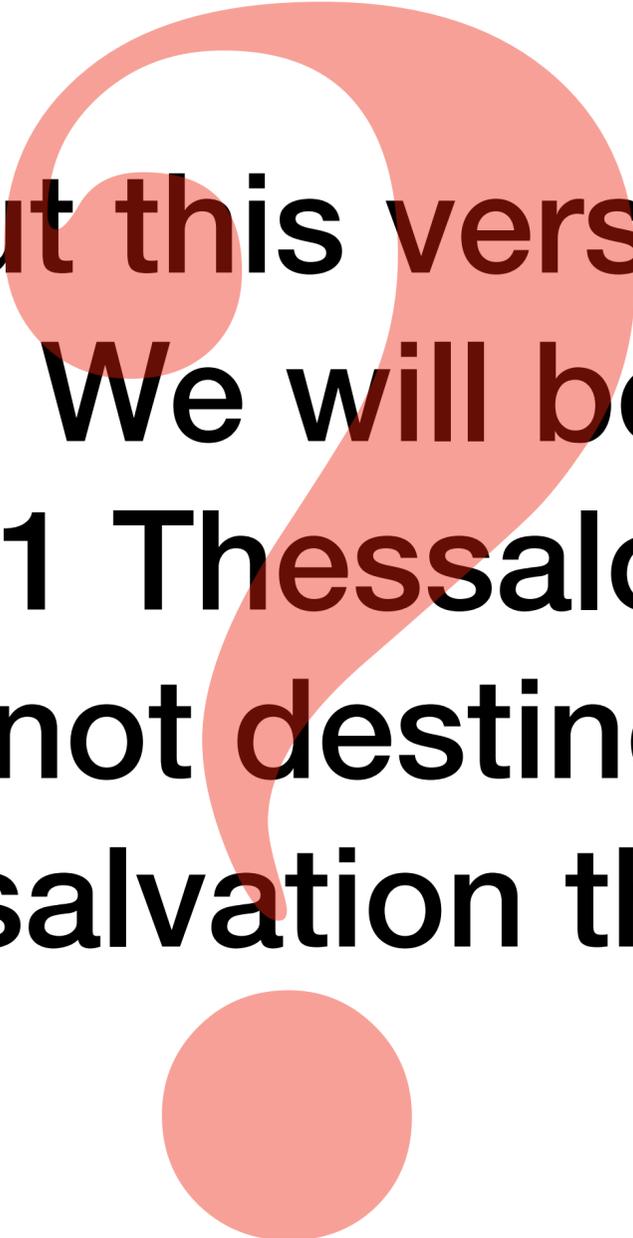
**This is very a bizarre claim. Not only is the Holy Spirit omnipresent, but as we've seen, there will indeed be believers on the earth during this time.**

**Others say the restrainer is Michael the archangel.**

**Another theory holds that this is actually referring to Satan, the accuser being cast out of heaven down to the earth.**

**Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has only a short time. And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.**

**(Revelation 12:12–13)**



**19. Let's talk about this verse — because I hear this a lot. We will be raptured out of here because 1 Thessalonians 5:9 says: “For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ”**

**This passage has nothing to do with the  
rapture whatsoever.**

**Let's look at the context:**

**But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath (*orgē*) but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.**

**(1 Thessalonians 5:8–10)**

**Jesus died for us so that we are delivered from eternal wrath and will instead inherit eternal salvation.**

**Jesus didn't die for us to deliver us from the tribulation. Pre-tribbers admit there will be many saints on the earth during the Great Tribulation.**

**(They call them "tribulation saints"). If Jesus died for them to save them from the wrath of the tribulation, then why are they on the earth?**

**Repentance and baptism saves us from  
eternal wrath (*orgē*), but not God's  
judgments that are poured out on the earth.**

**“He who believes in the Son has eternal life;  
but he who does not obey the Son will not  
see life, but the wrath (*orgē*) of God abides  
on him.”**

**(John 3:36)**

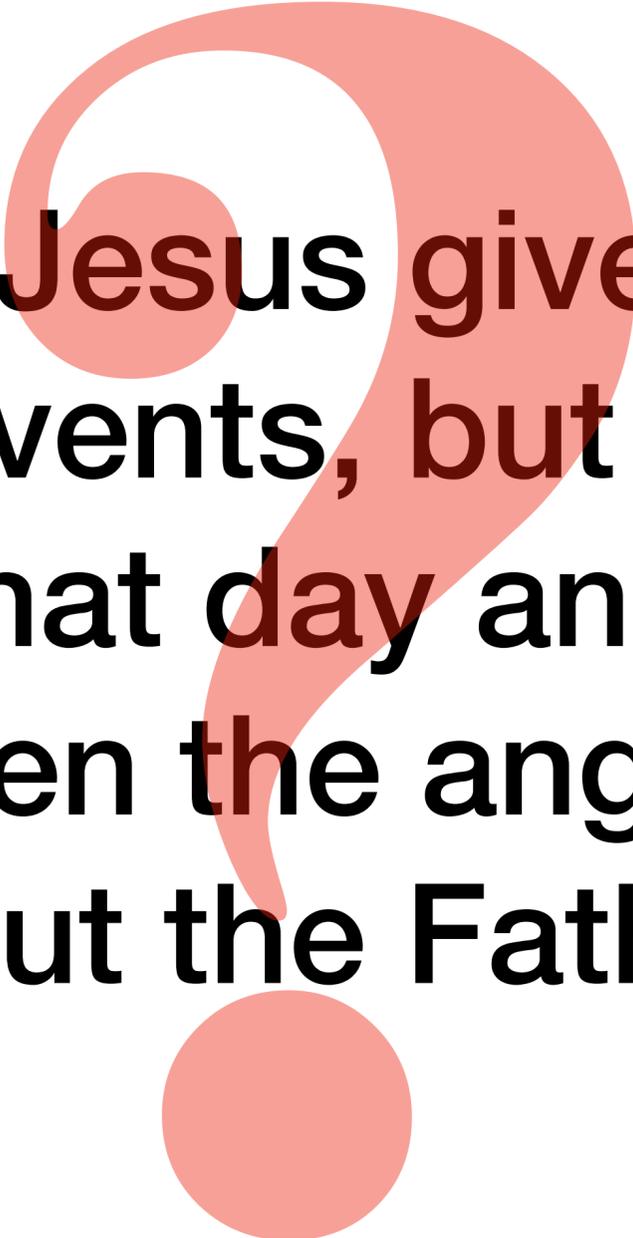
Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath (orgē) to come? Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;

(Matthew 3:5–8)

**The wrath of God is already revealed from heaven. Why have we not been raptured?**

**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven  
against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of  
men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,  
because that which is known about God is  
evident within them; for God made it evident to  
them.**

**(Romans 1:18–19)**



20. On one hand, Jesus gives us a timeline for end time events, but He also says “concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only” (Matt 24:36).

**Pre-tribbers argue that since we have a timeframe, and since we cannot know “the day or the hour” only pretribulationism can be true.**

**They argue that if Jesus returns at the end of the 7 years, we could simply count 2,520 days from the signing of the peace treaty between the Antichrist and Israel to know the exact day.**

**There are a few significant reasons why we can know the general season, but not the precise day or hour.**

**A year is 365 days, not 360. 7 years are 2,555 days (not 2,520). This is why Hebrews add an “intercalary month” every now and then. Daniel uses 360 day years. Do we use actual 365 days or 360 day years? These things are endlessly debated with no clear answers. This certainly complicates the claim that we can know the precise day.**

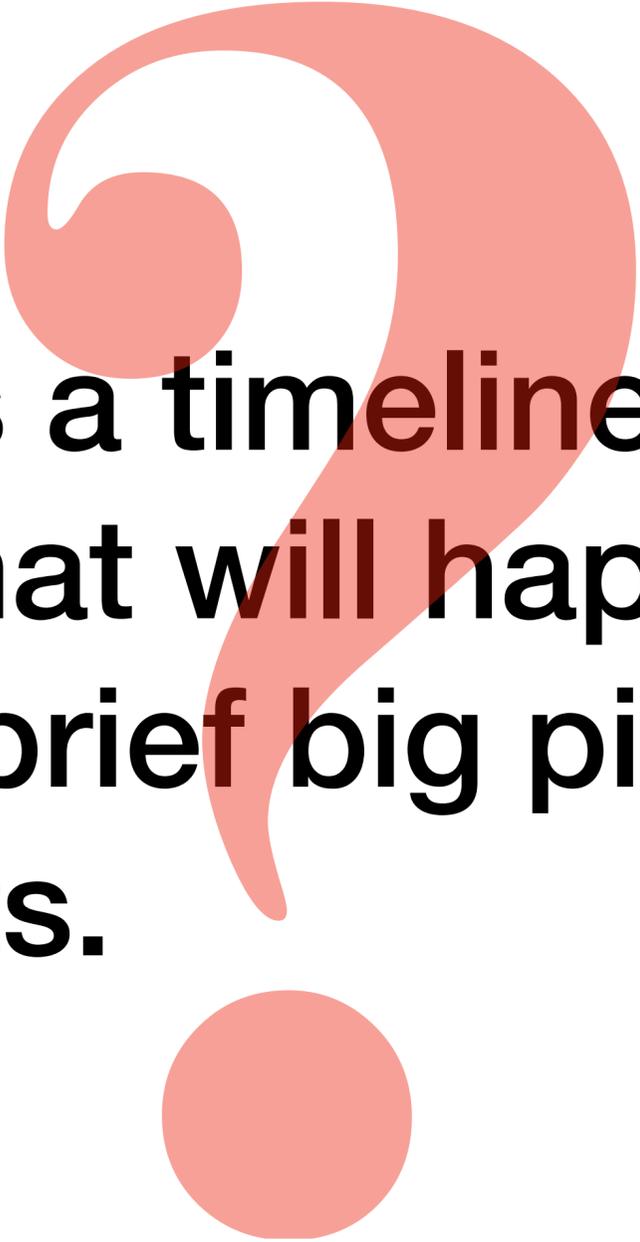
**Further complicating this matter is the following passage:**

**From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. How blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days!  
(Daniel 12:11–12)**

**So do we count 1,260, 1,290, or 1,335 days?**

# **Yom Teruah – The Blasting of Trumpets**

**Many believe Jesus will return at the conclusion of Yom Teruah or the Day of the Blasting of Trumpets. This is also known as “the unknown day,” as the exact day is not known until the sighting of the moon from Jerusalem. It varies from year to year.**



**21. Jesus gave us a timeline for this 7 year period and what will happen in Matthew 24. Give us a brief big picture overview of these events.**

**As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray.**

**(Matthew 24:3-4)**

**Jesus draws from two key portions of Scripture:**

**Isaiah 26 and 66 (which we previously looked at) using the birth pains analogy for the end of the age.**

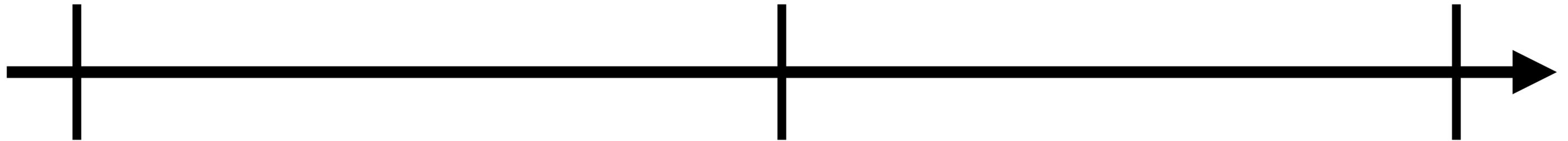
**Daniel who gives us the seven year framework with the abomination that causes desolation as the mid-point.**

# Final Seven Years

**Beginning of the  
Seven Years**

**Middle of the Week**

**End of the  
Seven Years**



**Beginning of  
Birth Pangs**

**The Great Tribulation  
Full Travails of  
Labor**

**Abomination that  
Causes Desolation**

# **The Beginning of Birth Pains:**

**And 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. You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end.**

**For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.**

**(Matthew 24:4–8)**

# **The Actual Birth Pains:**

**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. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. 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.**

**(Matthew 24:9–14)**

## **The Birth:**

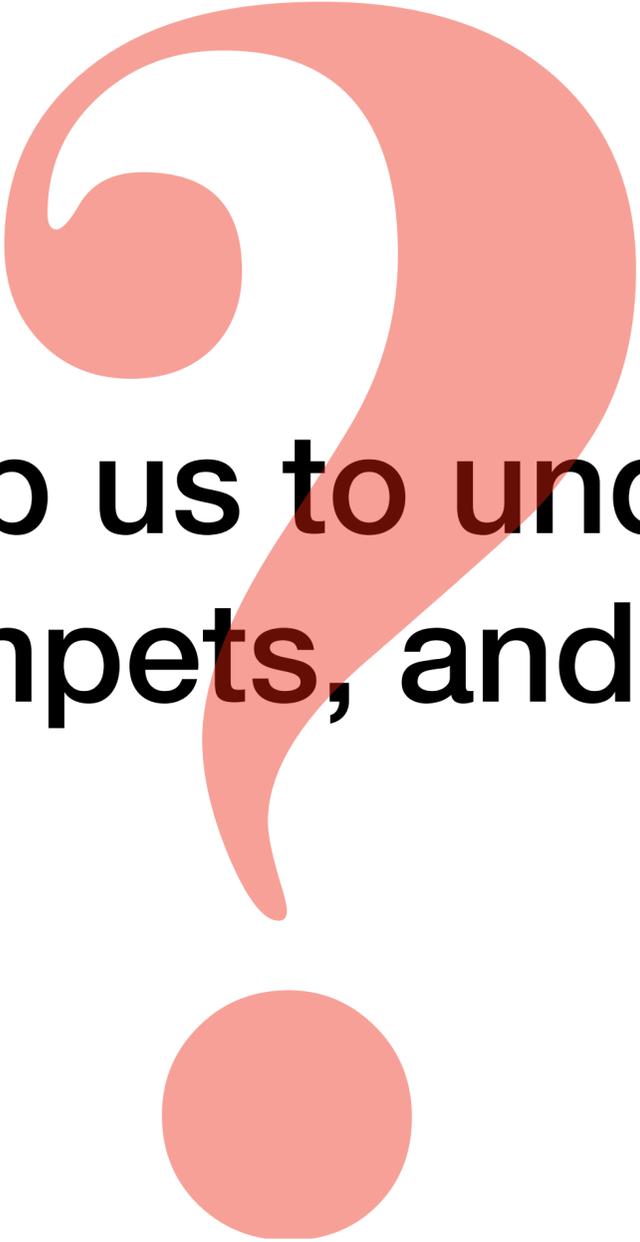
**“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”**

**(Matthew 24:29)**



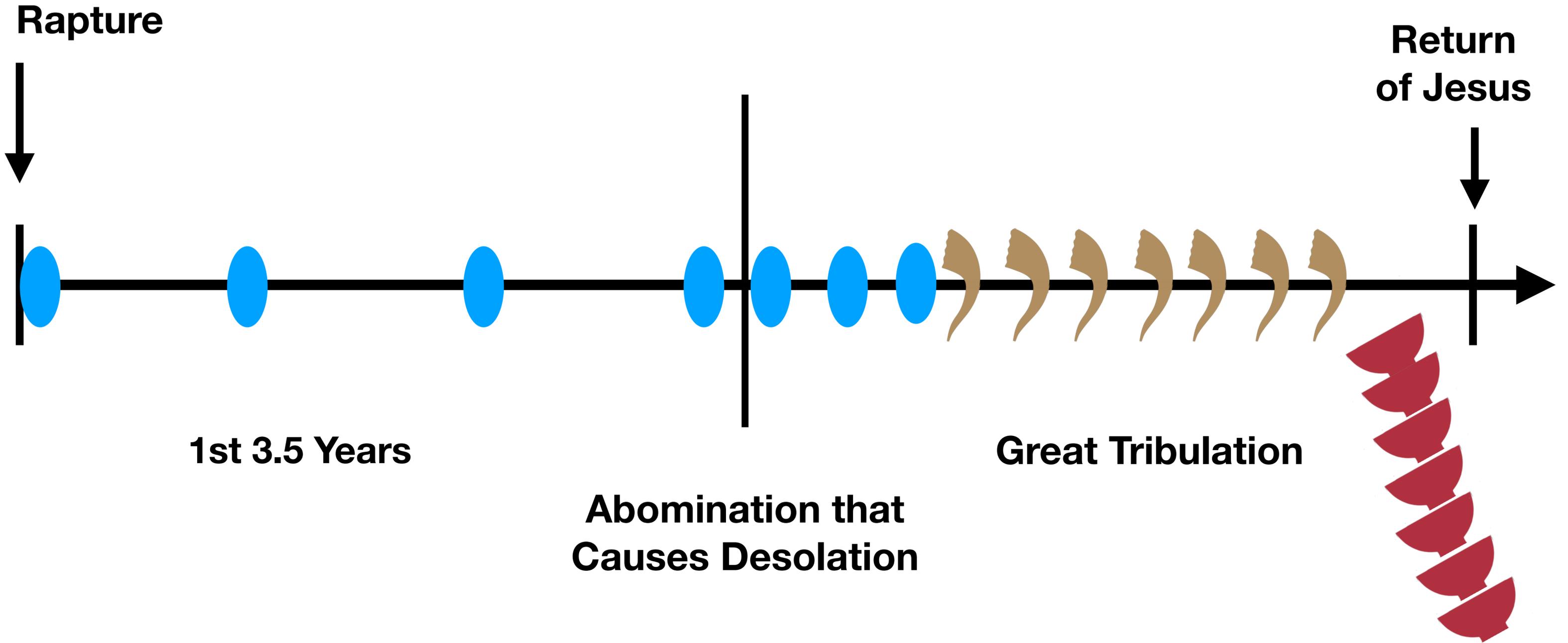
**22. How does Jesus' Olivet Discourse align with the Book of Revelation?**

Jesus		Revelation	
Matthew 24:4-5	Deception, False Christs	Revelation 6:1-2 1st seal White Horse	Conquering rider with bow
Matthew 24:6a	Wars and Rumors of War	Revelation 6:3-4 2nd Seal Red Horse	Removal of Peace Great Sword War
Matthew 24:6b	Famine	Revelation 6:5-6 3rd Seal Black Horse	Economic Collapse Famine
These previous things are all merely the beginning of birth pains. Then...			
Matthew 24:9	Persecution, Tribulation	Revelation 6:7-8 4th Seal Pale Ashen Horse	Death

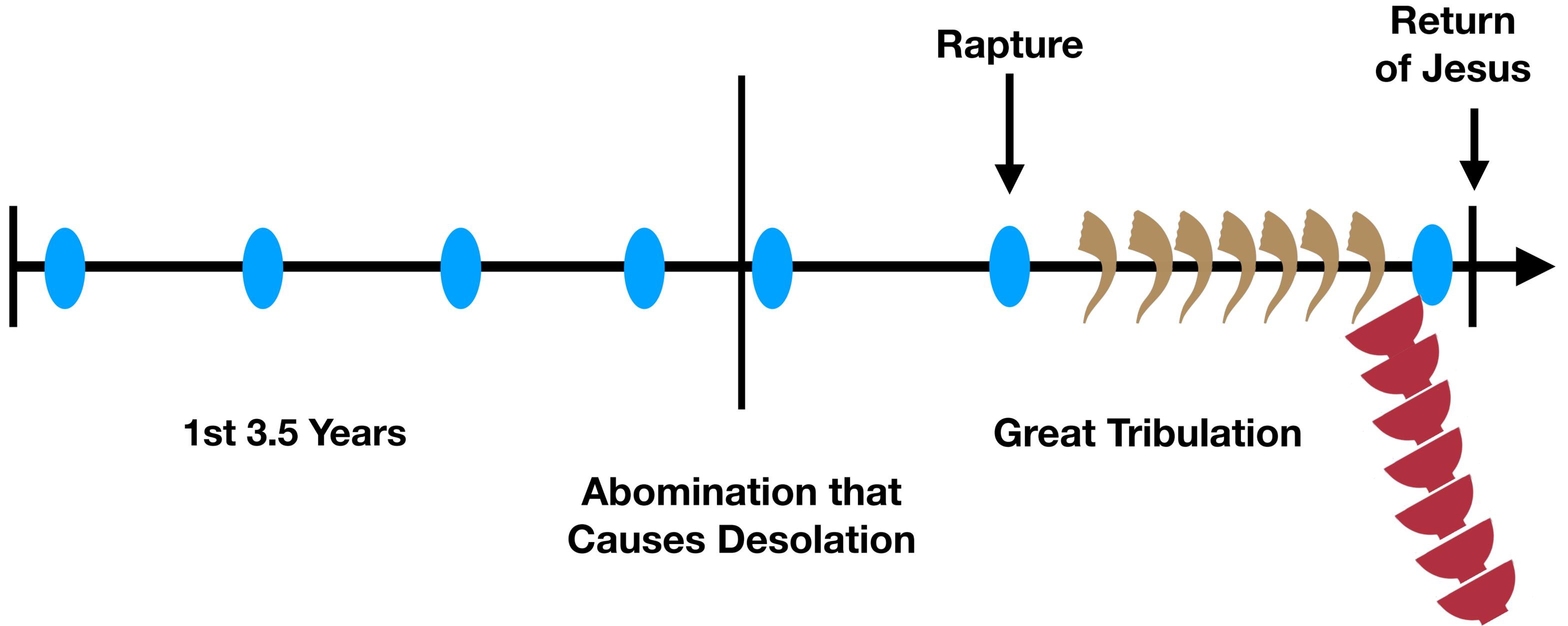


**23. How does help us to understand the seals, the trumpets, and the bowls in Revelation?**

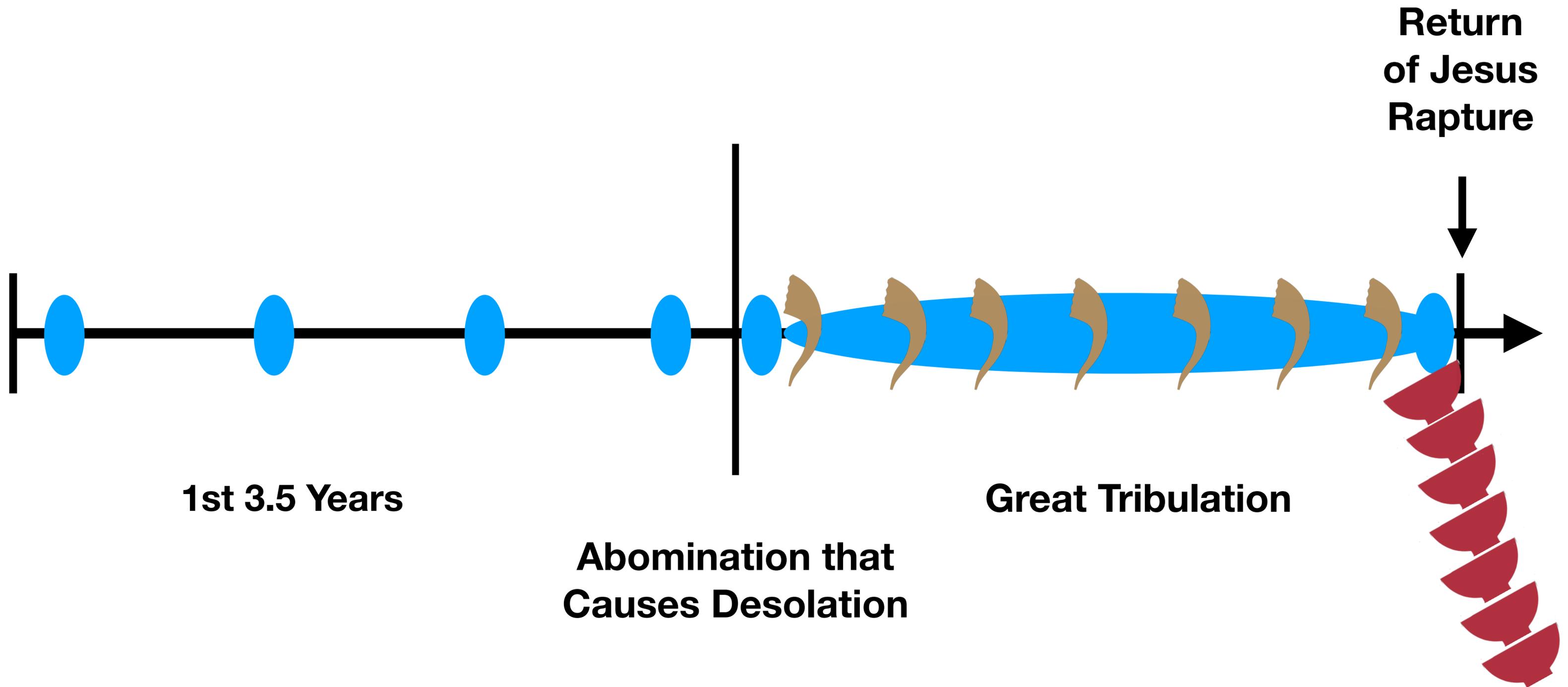
# Pre-Tribulational Rapture View



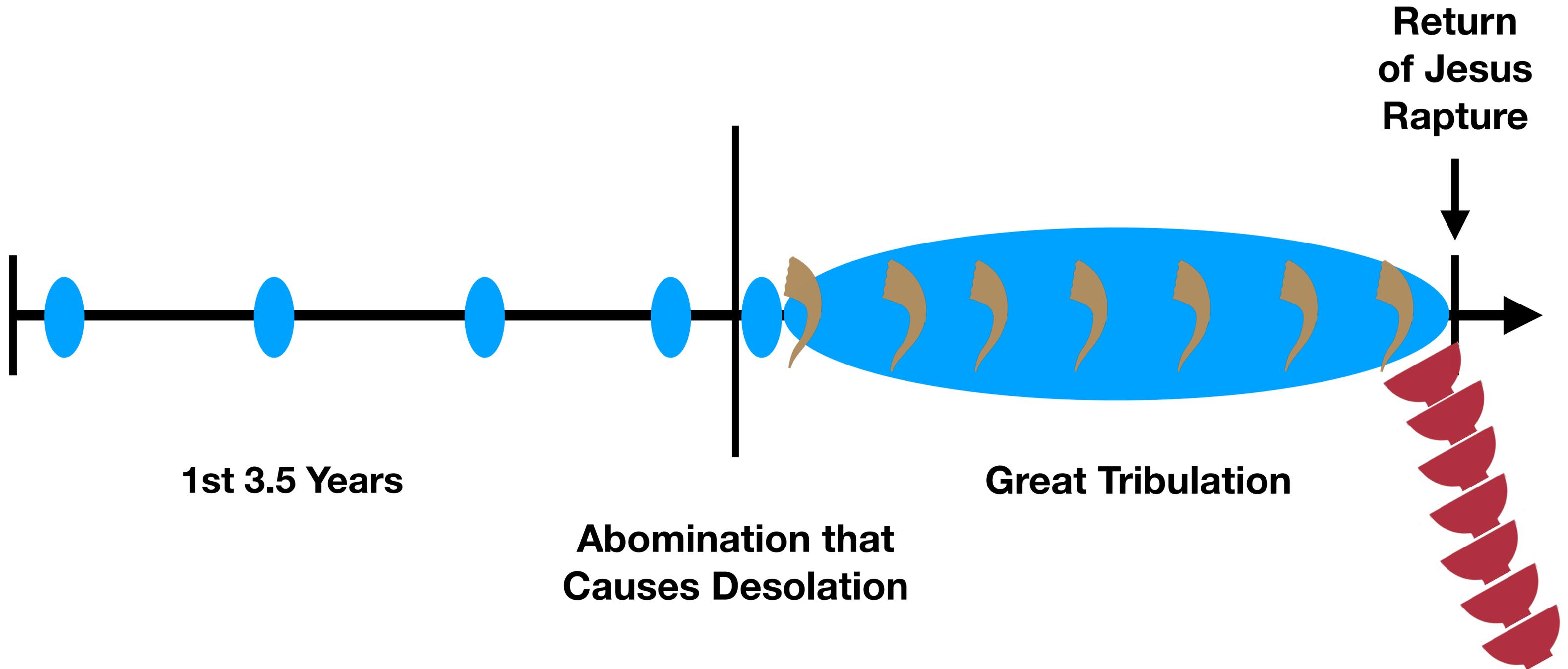
# Pre-Wrath Rapture View

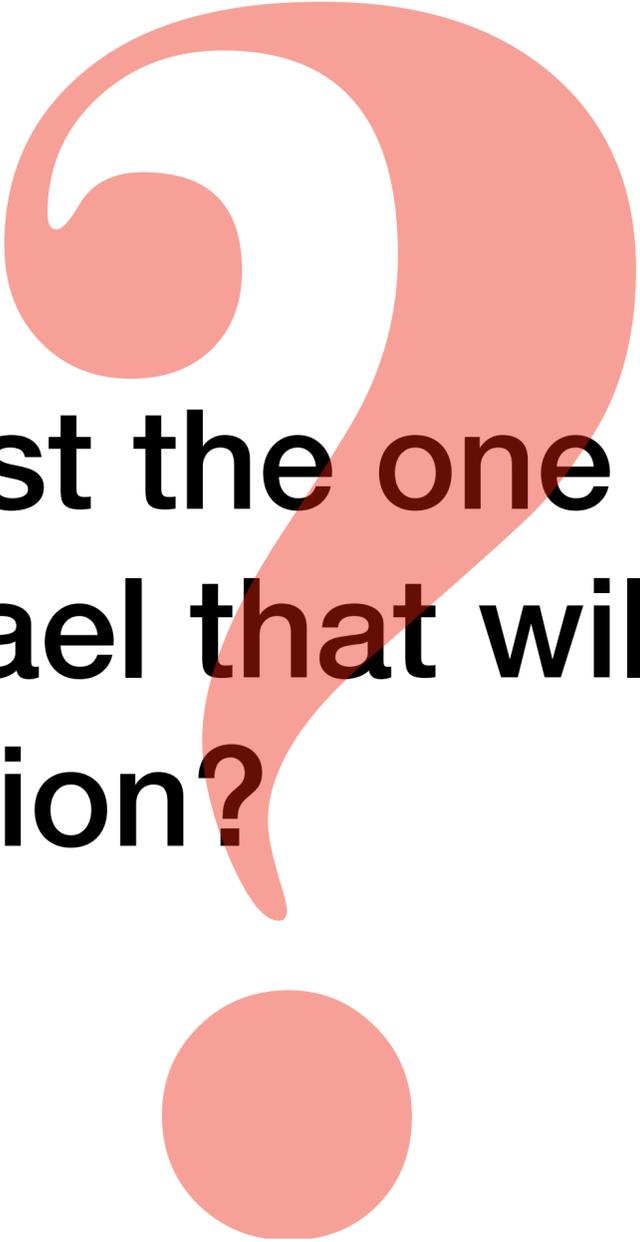


# Post-Tribulation Rapture View



# Post-Tribulational Rapture View





**24. Is the Antichrist the one who will make a treaty with Israel that will start this whole 7 years in motion?**

**Yes, the individual who makes or strengthens the covenant is the Antichrist. Some have sought to interpret the passage to understand this individual to be Jesus. This view requires a deeply inconsistent approach to the prophecies of Daniel.**

**“And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”**

**(Daniel 9:24–27)**

Verse (NIV)	Abomination or Horror	Ceasing of offerings	Responsible Party
Daniel 8:9-14	“transgression causes horror”	“removed the regular sacrifice”	Antiochus / Antichrist
Daniel 9:27	“the overspreading of abominations”	“put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering”	Antichrist
Daniel 11:31	“the abomination of desolation”	“do away with the regular sacrifice”	Antiochus / Antichrist
Daniel 12:11	“the abominations of desolation”	“the regular sacrifice is abolished”	Antichrist

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Daniel 11:31	“the abomination of desolation”	“do away with the regular sacrifice”	Antiochus / Antichrist
Daniel 12:11	“the abominations of desolation”	“the regular sacrifice is abolished”	Antichrist



**25. Will he be a friend of Israel to begin with?**

**He will have enough political capital to gain Israel's trust to enter into this treaty or covenant. Isaiah says that Israel will come to rely or trust him for their security.**

**Now in that day the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will never again rely on the one who struck them, but will truly rely on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel.**

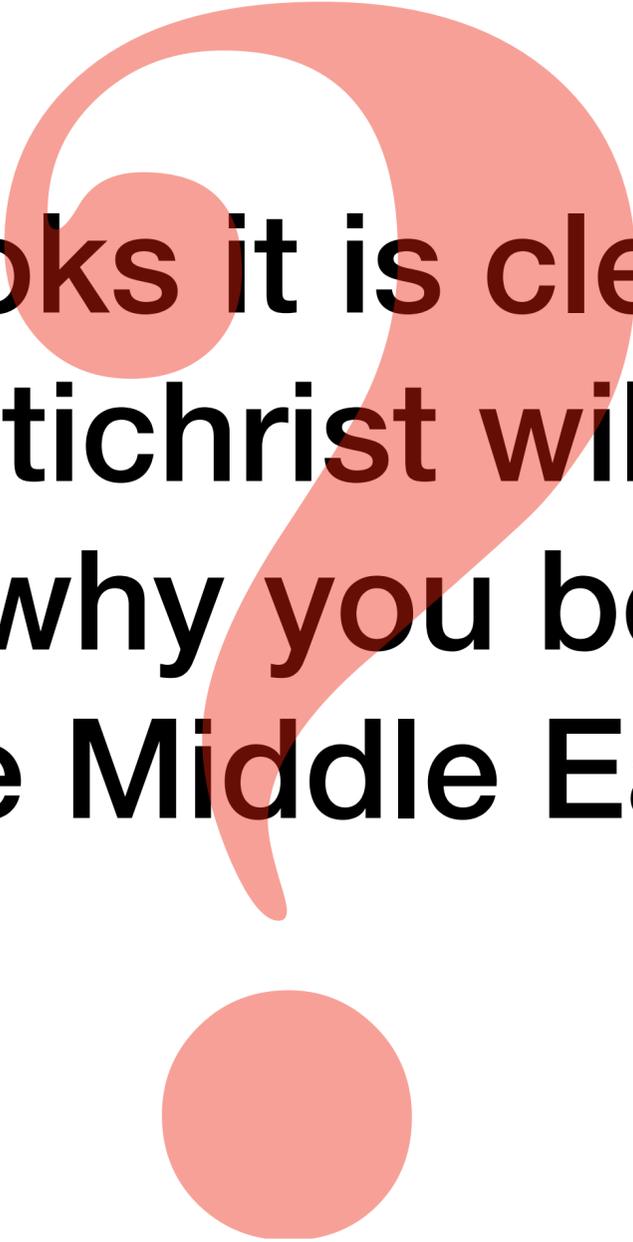
**(Isaiah 10:20)**

**Therefore, hear the word of the Lord, O scoffers, who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have made a pact. The overwhelming scourge will not reach us when it passes by, for we have made falsehood our refuge and we have concealed ourselves with deception.”**

**(Is 28:14–15)**

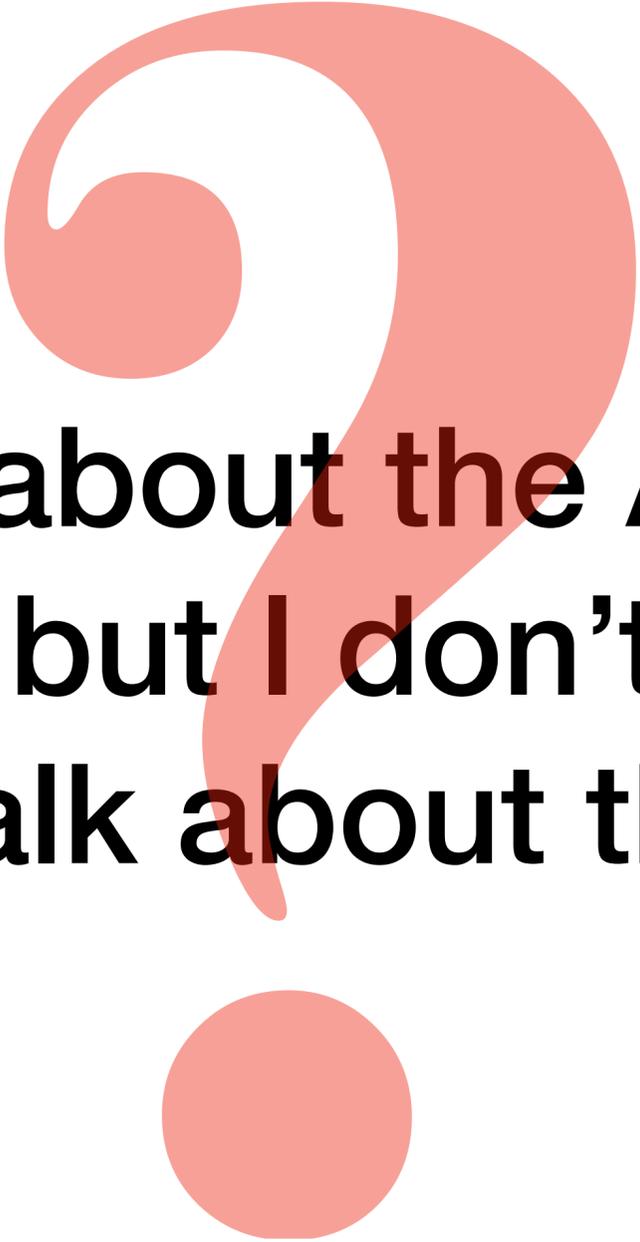
**Therefore thus says the Lord God, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the level; then hail will sweep away the refuge of lies and the waters will overflow the secret place. Your covenant with death will be canceled, and your pact with Sheol will not stand; when the overwhelming scourge passes through, then you become its trampling place. As often as it passes through, it will seize you; for morning after morning it will pass through, anytime during the day or night, and it will be sheer terror to understand what it means.”**

**(Isaiah 28:16-19)**



**26. From your books it is clear that you believe the Antichrist will be a Muslim, so talk about why you believe he will come from the Middle East and not Rome.**

**The case for a Muslim Antichrist is simple: The Bible, and particularly the End-Times narrative is thoroughly Israel centric. Every single verse throughout the Bible that names or identifies the nations that will comprise the Antichrist's empire are all Middle Eastern or North African nations. There is not a single verse in the Bible that names a non-Muslim majority nation as being part of the Antichrist coalition.**



**27. We hear a lot about the Antichrist will rule the world but I don't think the Bible says that so talk about that.**

**The only passage that is used to argue for a global rule of the Antichrist is in Revelation 13:**

**“Also it [the Antichrist] was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.”**

**(Revelation 13:7–8)**

**The Bible actually commonly uses this kind of  
hyperbole.**

**“This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold.”**

**(Daniel 2:36–38)**

**“Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The LORD,  
the God of heaven, has given me all the  
kingdoms of the earth, and he has  
charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem,  
which is in Judah”**

**(Ezra 1:2)**

**“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.”  
(Luke 2:1)**

**While it is clear the Antichrist will have global influence, he will not rule every nation throughout the entire planet.**

**First, the Bible consistently speaks of a ten kings who will form a ten nation coalition under the leadership of the Antichrist.**

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

**(Daniel 7:7)**

**“and the meaning of the ten horns that were on its head and the other horn which came up, and before which three of them fell...”**

**(Daniel 7:20)**

**As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.**

**(Daniel 7:24)**

**Then another sign appeared in heaven: and behold,  
a great red dragon having seven heads and ten  
horns, and on his heads were seven diadems.  
(Revelation 12:3)**

**Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea,  
having ten horns and seven heads, and on his  
horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were  
blasphemous names.  
(Revelation 13:1)**

**And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns.**

**(Revelation 17:3)**

**I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns.**

**(Revelation 17:7)**

**The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.  
(Revelation 17:12)**

**And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire.  
(Revelation 17:16)**

**The Antichrist will “invade many countries.” Egypt will fall to his forces. He will invade the land of Israel, called, “the glorious land.” But Jordan will escape “his hand”:**

**And he shall come into countries and shall overflow and pass through. He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and the main part of the Ammonites. He shall stretch out his hand against the countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape.**

**(Daniel 11:40–42)**

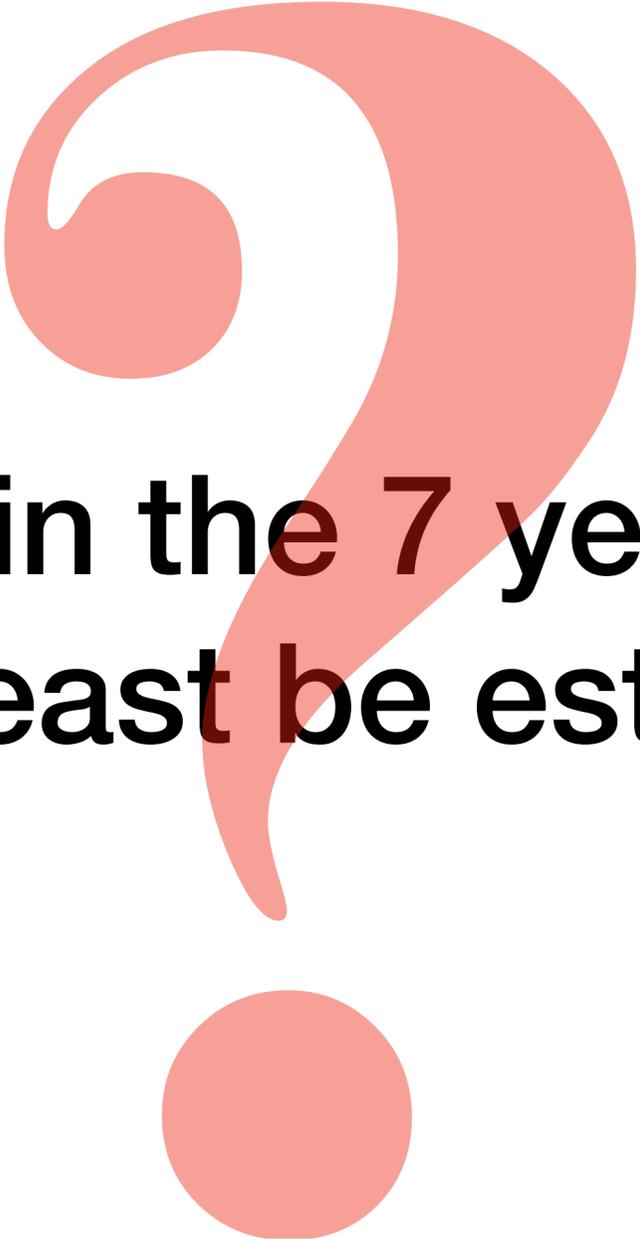
**Just a few verses later, it says the Antichrist will hear “news from the east and the north,” which will trouble him and throw him into a frantic state of rage and annihilation.**

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

**(Daniel 11:44)**

**“even to the end there will be war; desolations  
are determined.”  
(Daniel 9:26)**

**The fact that there will be wars until the end  
proves that there will be resistor militaries, and  
thus resistor nations.**



**28. At what point in the 7 year period will the Mark of the Beast be established?**

**The Mark of the Beast is instituted specifically at the mid-point when the Abomination that Causes Desolation is set up. This will set off the Great Tribulation.**

# The Great Tribulation

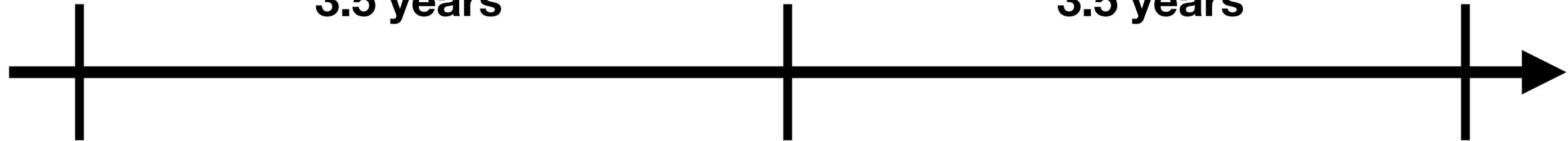
Abomination that  
Causes Desolation  
&  
Mark of the Beast  
put in place

3.5 years

3.5 years

Beginning of  
Birth Pangs

The Great  
Tribulation



**I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life. And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would even speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed.**

**(Revelation 13:11–15)**

**And he causes all, the small and the great,  
and the rich and the poor, and the free men  
and the slaves, to be given a mark on their  
right hand or on their forehead, and he  
provides that no one will be able to buy or to  
sell, except the one who has the mark,  
either the name of the beast or the number  
of his name.**

**(Revelation 13:16–17)**

**Everyone who takes the Mark of the Beast goes to hell. Yet the entire remnant of Israel who survive the tribulation will be saved. So although Jerusalem will become the headquarters of the Antichrist's rule, we can also surmise that most of the inhabitants of Israel will not take the mark.**



**29. Will this start a chain reaction in Israel  
and the worldwide persecution of  
Christians?**

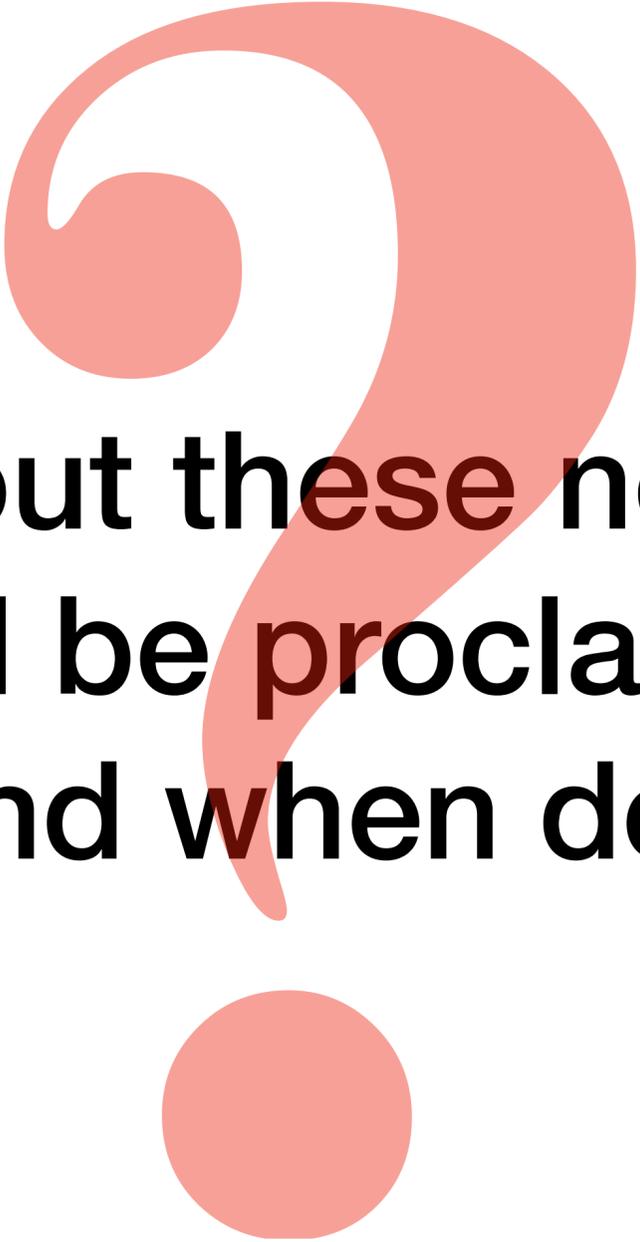
**“So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let the one who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house, and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a Sabbath.**

**(Matthew 24:15-20)**

**While there is indeed an Israel centered emphasis to the persecution of the Last-Days, Jesus also said that the great persecution will largely revolve around those who bear His name.**

**“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.**

**(Matthew 24:9-12)**



**30. Talk to me about these next verses—how will the Gospel be proclaimed to the whole world and when does this happen?**

**But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.**

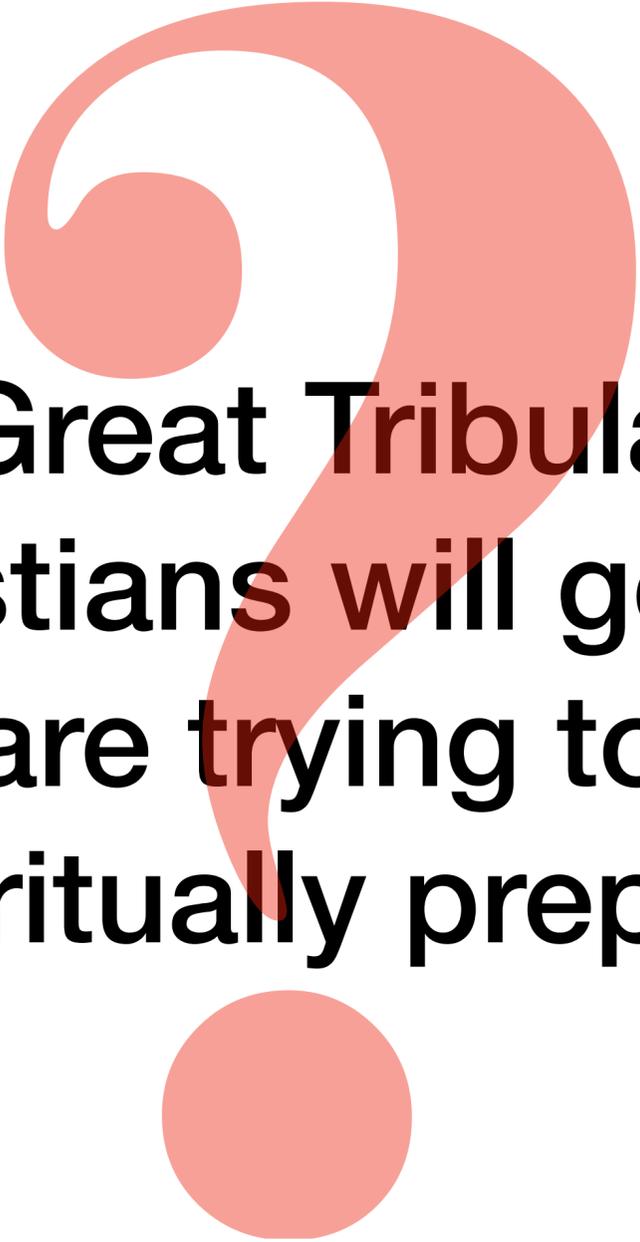
**(Matthew 24:13-14)**

**“And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.**

**(Revelation 11:3–6)**

**And I saw another angel flying in midheaven,  
having an eternal gospel to preach to those  
who live on the earth, and to every nation and  
tribe and tongue and people; and he said with  
a loud voice, “Fear God, and give Him glory,  
because the hour of His judgment has come;  
worship Him who made the heaven and the  
earth and sea and springs of waters.”**

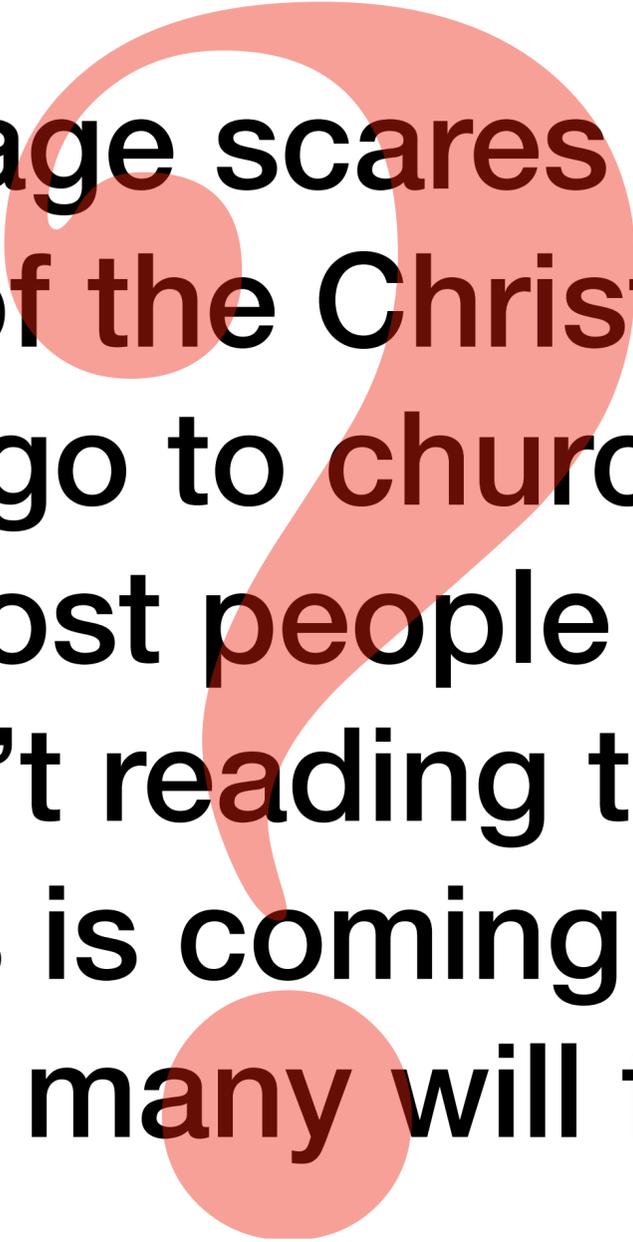
**(Revelation 14:6–7)**



**31. Talk about the Great Tribulation—what that looks like. Christians will go through the tribulation. We are trying to warn people so they can be spiritually prepared.**

**For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.**

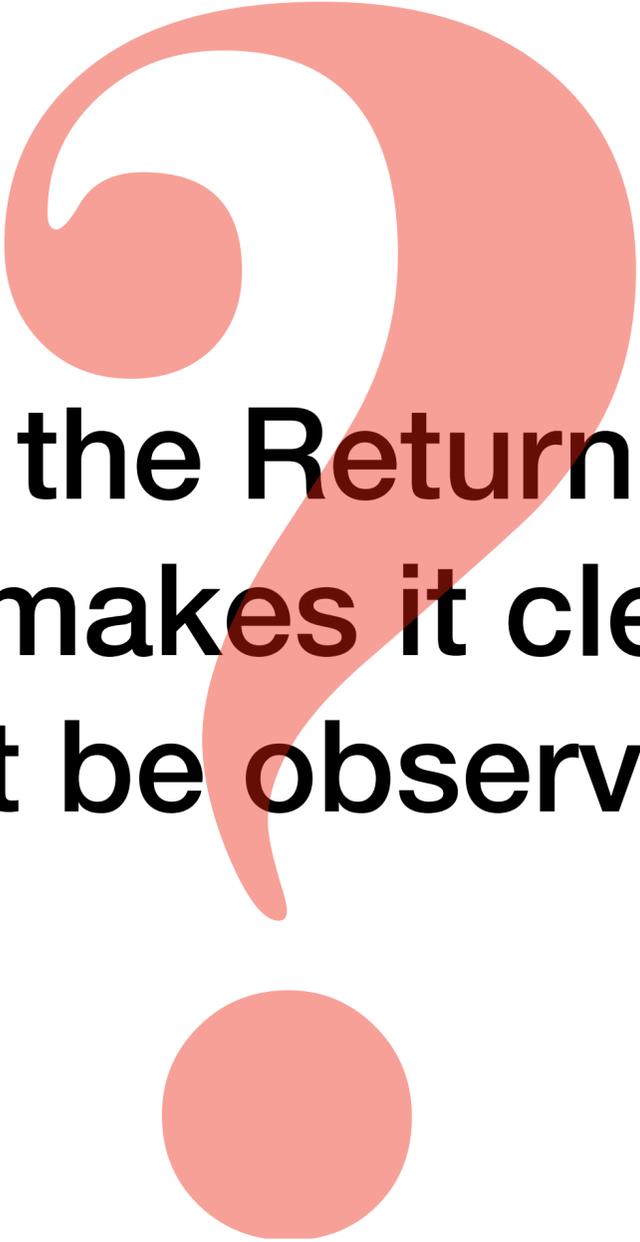
**(Matthew 24:21-22)**



**32. This next passage scares me, especially with the state of the Christian churches today. People go to church and put Jesus in a box and most people claiming to be Christians aren't reading their Bibles. They don't know this is coming and when it does — it seems that many will fall away.**

**“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. Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved.”**

**(Matthew 24:9–13)**



**33. Let's talk about the Return of Jesus because this next verse makes it clear that it will be a big thing—will it be observable worldwide?**

**Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. See, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, ‘Look, he is in the wilderness,’ do not go out. If they say, ‘Look, he is in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.**

**(Matthew 24:23-26)**

**For as the lightning comes from the east  
and shines as far as the west, so will be the  
coming of the Son of Man. Wherever the  
corpse is, there the vultures will gather.  
(Matthew 24:27-28)**

**Jesus' point here with the lightning (more correctly, shining forth of the morning rays of the sun) and the vultures saying is that it will be obvious, unmistakable, and impossible to miss.**

**“The Lord [will come] from Sinai, and dawn  
on them from Seir; He will shine forth from  
Mount Paran, and He will come from the  
midst of ten thousand holy ones; at His  
right hand will flash forth lightning.**

**(Deuteronomy 33:2)**

**God comes from Teman, and the Holy One  
from Mount Paran. Selah. His splendor  
covers the heavens, and the earth is full of  
His praise. His radiance is like the sunlight;  
He has rays flashing from His hand, and  
there is the hiding of His power.**

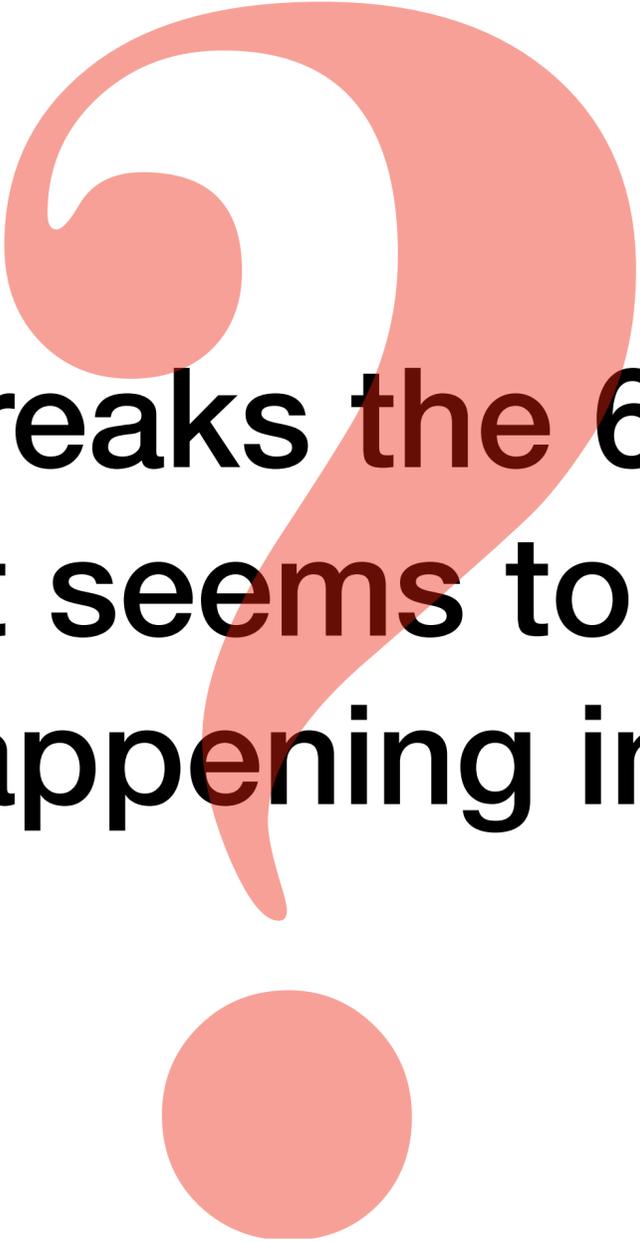
**(Habakkuk 3:3–4)**

**Arise, shine; for your light has come, and  
the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For behold, darkness will cover the earth  
and deep darkness the peoples; but the  
Lord will rise upon you and His glory will  
appear upon you.**

**(Isaiah 60:1–2)**

**“For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says the Lord of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. “But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.**

**(Malachi 4:1-2)**



**34. When Jesus breaks the 6th Seal in Revelation 6, it seems to coincide exactly with what is happening in Matthew 24:29-30.**

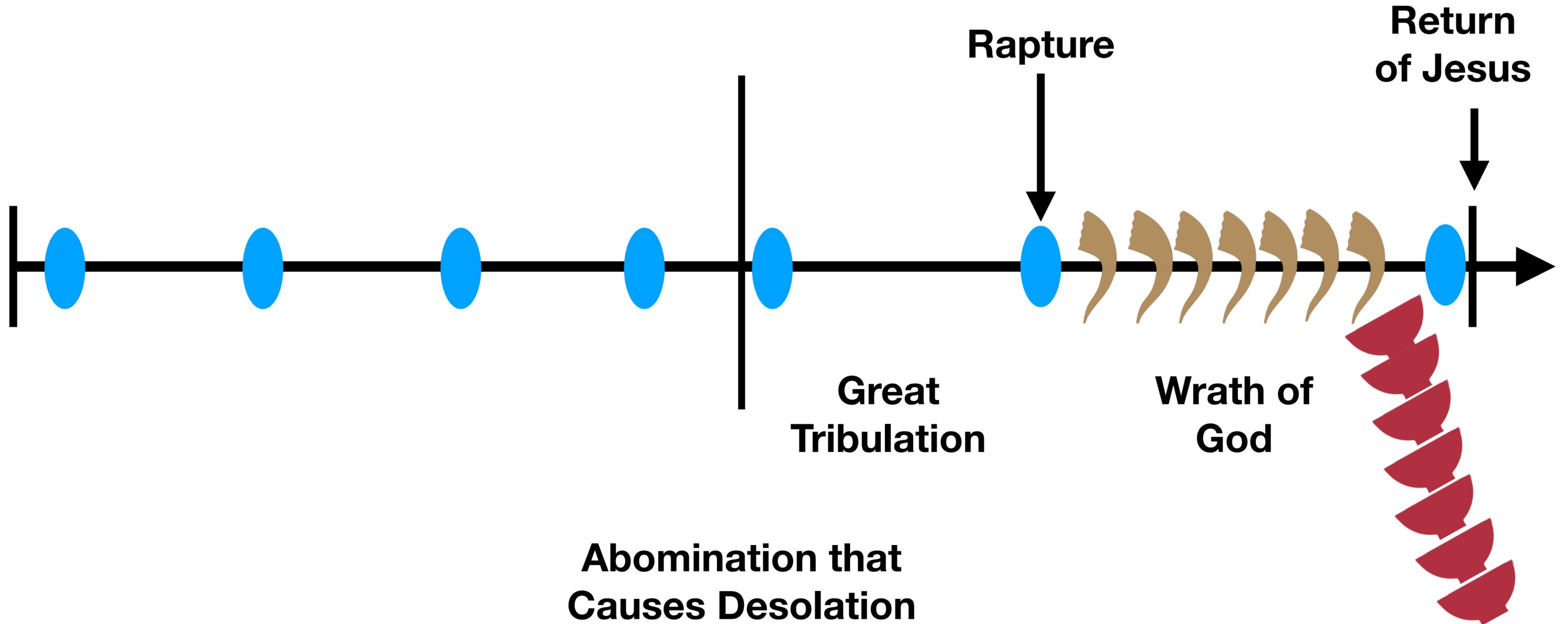
**I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.**

**(Revelation 6:12–14)**

**“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. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**

**(Matt 24:29-30)**

# Pre-Wrath Rapture View



**The cosmic signs mentioned in the sixth seal point to the rapture, but also the return of Jesus.**

“they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. 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.

(Mat 24:29–31)

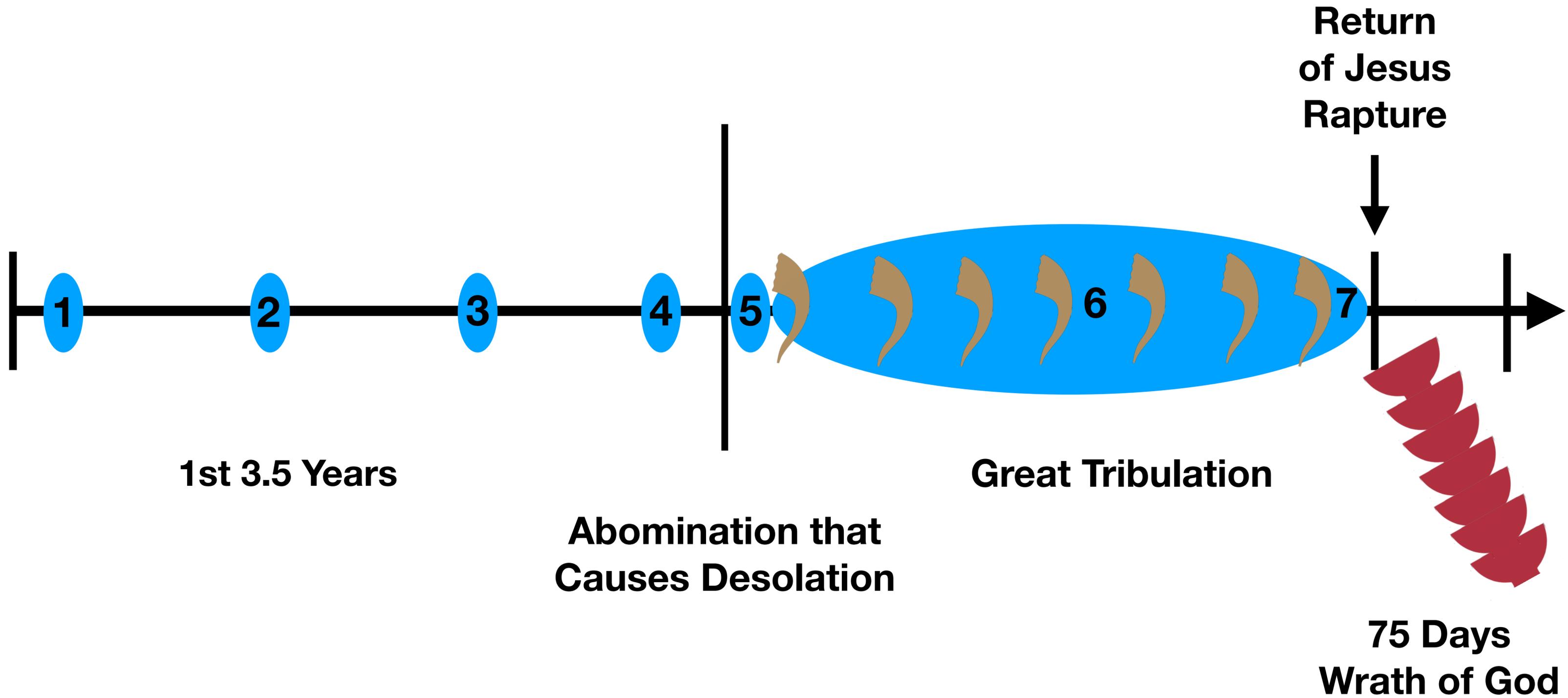
Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

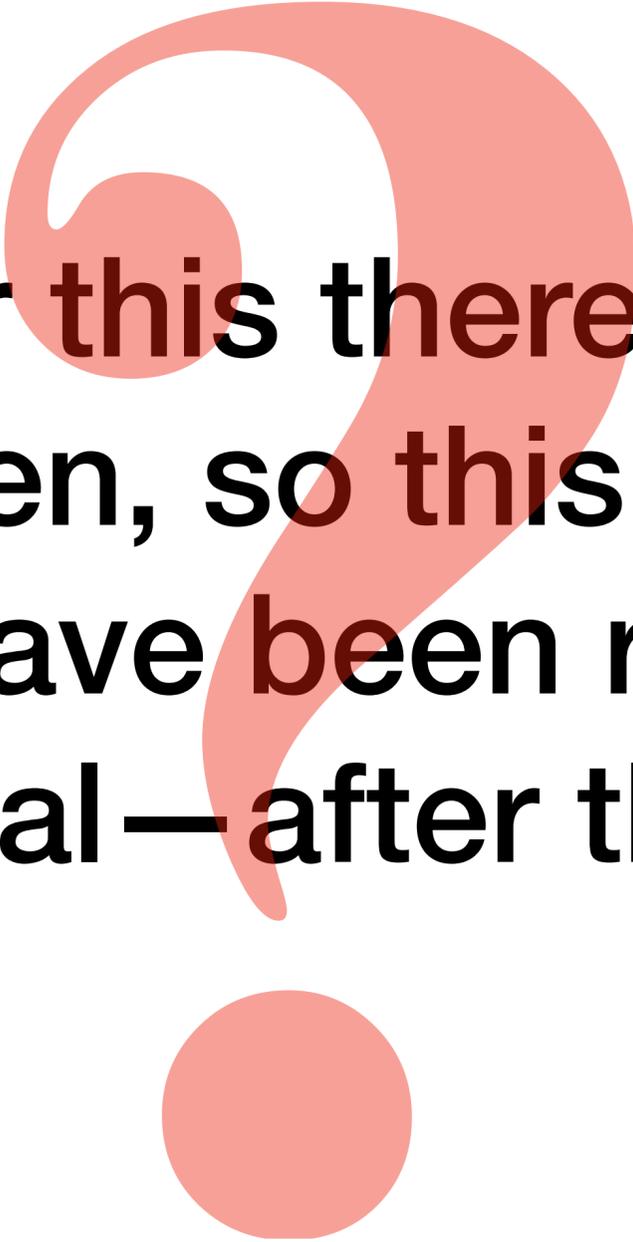
(1 Cor 15:51-53)

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

(1 Thes 4:14–18)

# Post-Tribulation Rapture View





**35. Then right after this there are all these people in heaven, so this looks like all these people have been raptured right after the 6th seal—after the great tribulation.**

**After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”**

**All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures.**

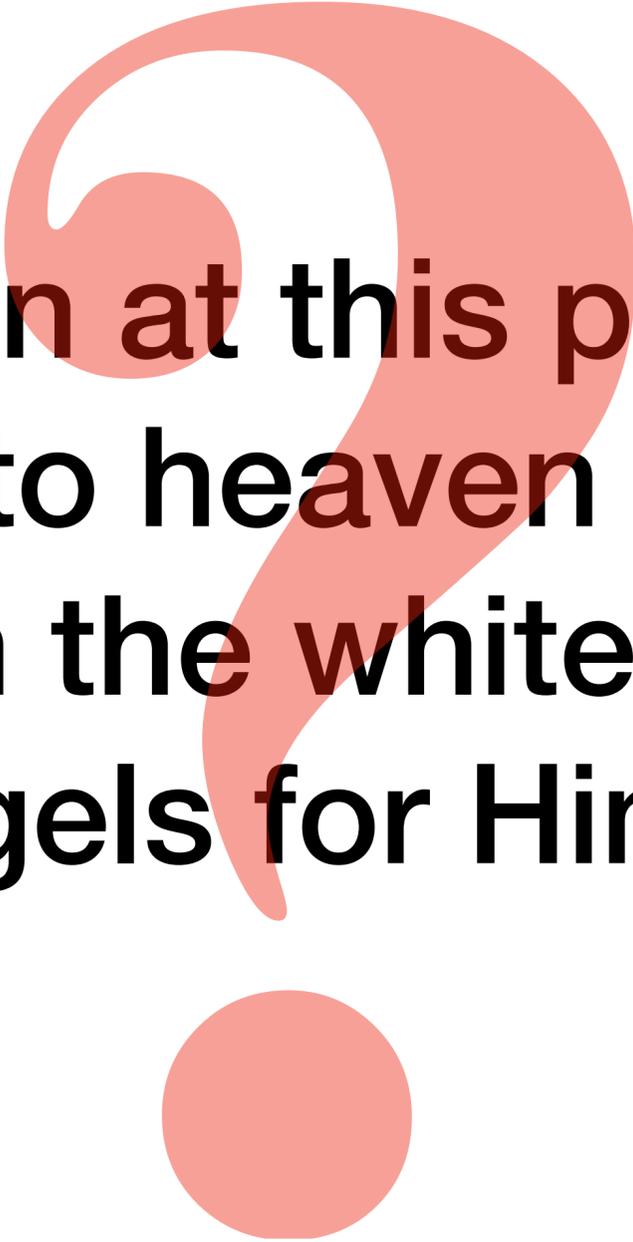
**(Revelation 7:9–11)**

They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: “Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!” Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?” I answered, “Sir, you know.” And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb”.

(Revelation 7:12–14)

**Those who hold to the Pre-Wrath view see this as those who were raptured. Those who hold to the Post-Trib see these as those who were martyred. Notice what was said just before this:**

**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.**  
**(Revelation 6:9–11)**



**36. If Jesus is seen at this point—does He then go back to heaven and then back to earth again on the white horse with the saints and angels for Him to rule and reign?**

**The Scriptures state that Jesus only returns once and does not return to heaven again.**

**And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.**

**(Hebrews 9:27–28)**

And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

(Acts 1:9–11)

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 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 fallen asleep. 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. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet (*apantesin*) the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

(1 Thessalonians 4:14–17)

The word for “meeting” the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17) is *apantesin*. It is used in two other places in the New Testament: Matthew 25:6 and Acts 28:15. In both cases, it refers to a meeting in which people go out to meet a dignitary and then accompany him in to the place from which they came out. Matthew 25:6, is even a parable of the second coming. This indicates that those who are alive will rise to meet the Lord in the air and then welcome him to earth as king.

**“Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. Now while the bridegroom was delaying, they all got drowsy and began to sleep. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet (*apantesin*) him.’  
(Matthew 25:1–6)**

**“Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.”**

**(Acts 3:21)**

**“...this man after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God. He is now waiting until his enemies are made his footstool”  
(Hebrews 10:12–13)**



**37. What does this next verse mean when it says “generation.”**

**Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.  
(Matthew 24:34-35)**

**Some understand generation to mean the group of people born during that particular period who see these things will not pass away until everything is accomplished.**

**I think a better view requires understanding how this term is used throughout the Bible. Generation (γενεὰ) here means spiritual offspring or children. It refers to those who reflect the character of their father. So for example, Satan has “children” and the Lord has “children.” Neither is literal. If one is wicked, they are of the righteous “generation.” If they are holy, they are children of God, a “holy “generation.”**

**This concept begins in the foundational text  
of Genesis 3:15:**

**“And I will put enmity  
Between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her seed;  
He shall bruise you on the head,  
And you shall bruise him on the heel.”  
(Genesis 3:15)**

**“They have acted corruptly toward Him,  
They are not His children, because of their  
defect; But are a perverse and crooked  
generation. Do you thus repay the Lord, O  
foolish and unwise people? Is not He your  
Father who has bought you? He has made  
you and established you.**

**(Deuteronomy 32:5–6)**

**“You neglected the Rock who begot you,  
and forgot the God who gave you birth. The  
Lord saw this, and spurned them because of  
the provocation of His sons and daughters.  
Then He said, ‘I will hide My face from them,  
I will see what their end shall be; for they are  
a perverse generation, Sons in whom is no  
faithfulness.’”**

**(Deuteronomy 32:18–20)**

**“For the Lord will vindicate His people,  
And will have compassion on His servants,  
When He sees that their strength is gone,  
And there is none remaining, bond or free.**

**And He will say, ‘Where are their gods,  
The rock in which they sought refuge?’”**

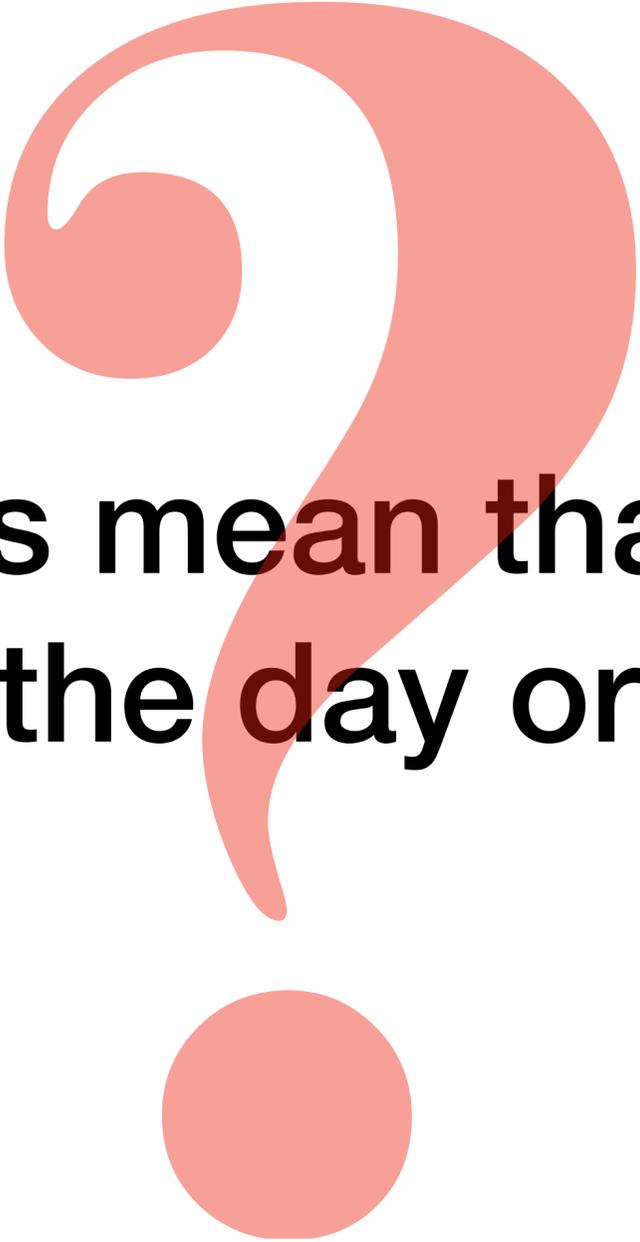
**(Deuteronomy 32:36–37)**

**They answered and said to Him, “Abraham is our father.” Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this. You do the deeds of your father.””**

**(John 8:39)**

**“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”**

**(1 Peter 2:9)**



**38. What does this mean that even Jesus  
doesn't know the day or hour?**

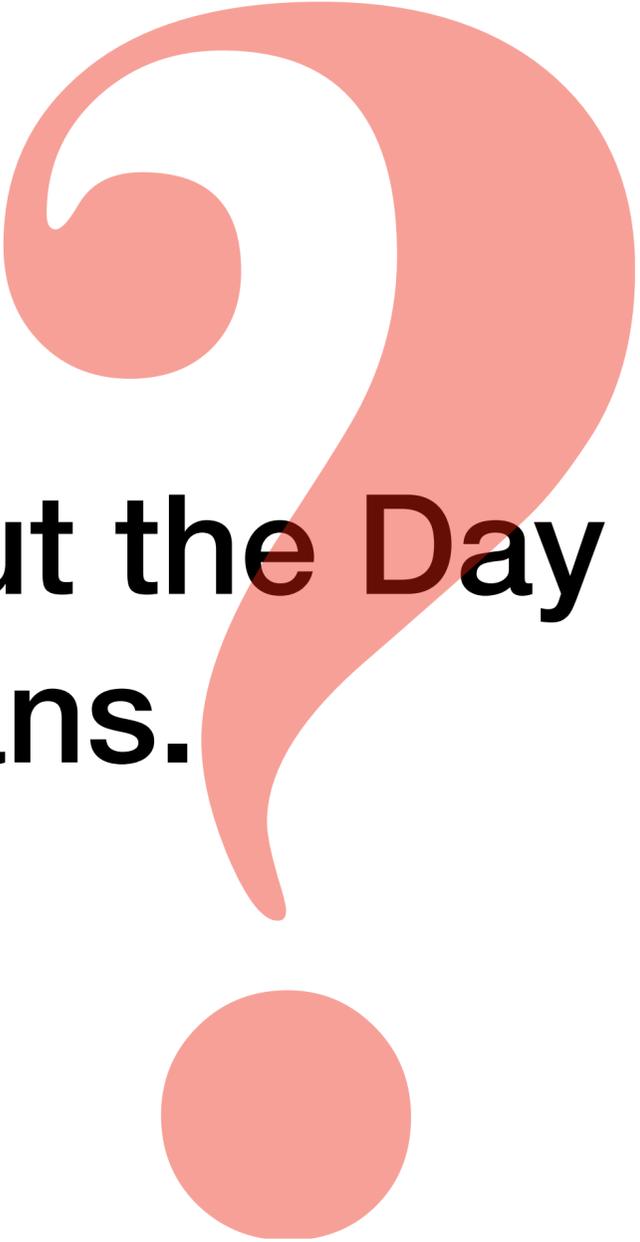
**“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”**

**(Matthew 24:36)**

**This is a very difficult verse that if not interpreted rightly would seem to suggest that the Son of God is not omniscient and less than God. I would contend that the answer is best resolved by understanding Yom Teruah, the Day of the Blasting of Trumpets, which we previously discussed.**

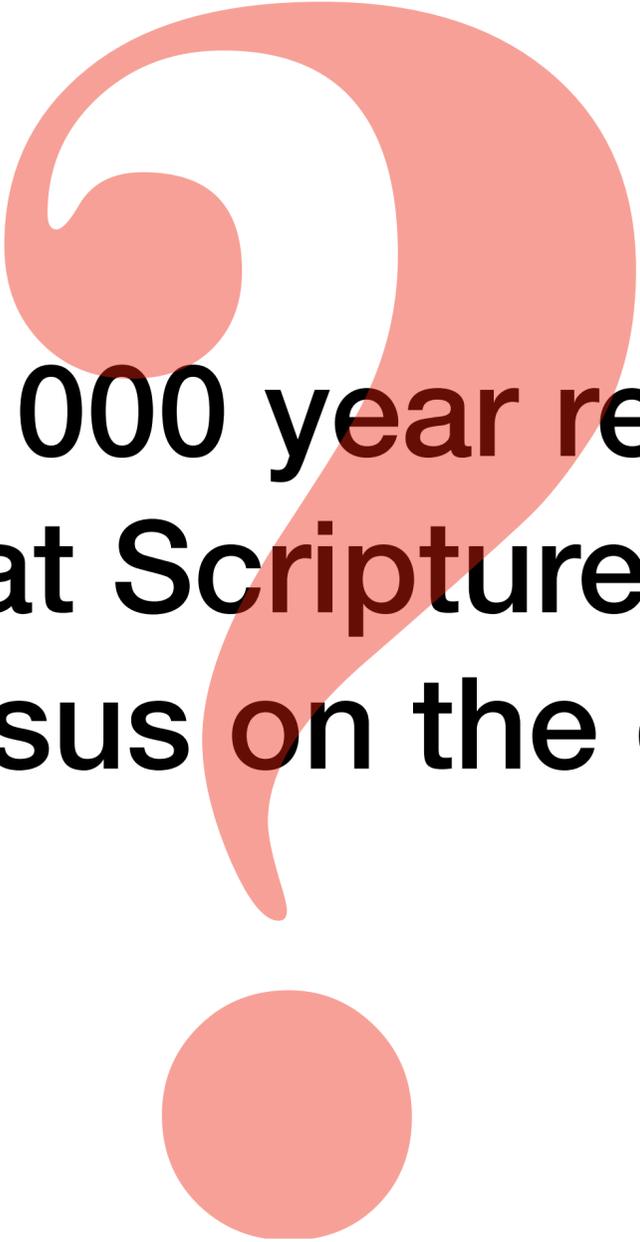
# **Yom Teruah—The Blasting of Trumpets**

**A good case can be made that Jesus will return at the conclusion of Yom Teruah or the Day of the Blasting of Trumpets. This is also known as “the unknown day,” as the exact day is contingent each year on the sighting of the moon from Jerusalem. It varies from year to year.**



**39. Let's talk about the Day of the Lord and what that means.**

**The “great and terrible” Day of the Lord is synonymous with the return of Jesus, or more appropriately, the Coming of God. It is the day of salvation, rewards for the righteous, and judgment, punishment, vengeance for the wicked.**



**40. Talk about the 1000 year reign. When does this occur? What Scriptures support a 1000 year reign of Jesus on the earth after He returns?**

**The only passage that specifically refers to Jesus reigning on the earth for “One thousand years” is Revelation 20, which describes the earth after Jesus returns.**

**Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.**

**(Revelation 20:1–3)**

Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

(Revelation 20:4-7)

**Numerous other passages speak of this period. While they don't specify its length as lasting 1000 years, they refer to a time when Christ rules the earth that is different and better than now, but not yet perfect.**

Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

(Isaiah 2:2–4)

**“I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; and there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying. No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed.**

**(Isaiah 65:19–20)**

**“They will build houses and inhabit them; they will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build and another inhabit, they will not plant and another eat; for as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, and My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they are the offspring of those blessed by the Lord, and their descendants with them. It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain,” says the Lord.**

**(Isaiah 65:21–25)**

**Thus says the Lord, “I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain.” Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each man with his staff in his hand because of age. And the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing in its streets.”**

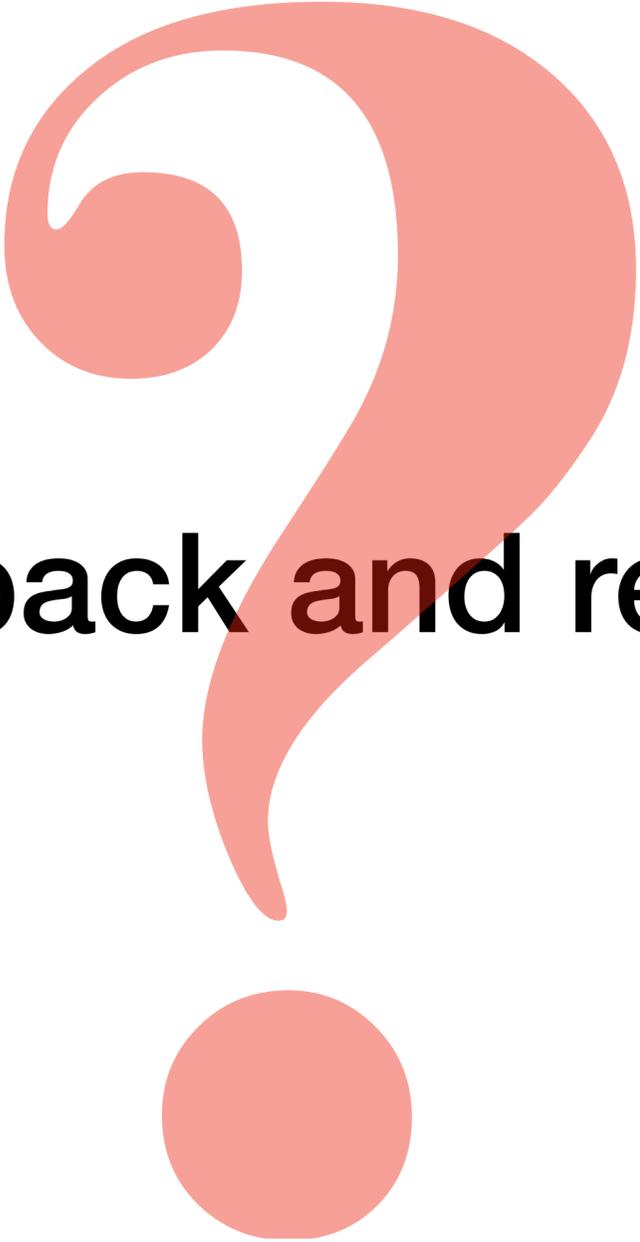
**(Zechariah 8:3–5)**

**Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, there will be no rain on them. If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the Lord smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.**

**(Zechariah 14:16–18)**

**In that day there will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, “HOLY TO THE LORD.” And the cooking pots in the Lord’s house will be like the bowls before the altar. Every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to the Lord of hosts; and all who sacrifice will come and take of them and boil in them.**

**(Zechariah 14:20–21)**



**41. Do we come back and reign with Jesus?**

**It is a trustworthy statement:**

**For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; If we endure, we will also reign with Him**

**(2 Timothy 2:11–12)**

Then Peter said to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?” And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life.

(Matthew 19:27–29)

**“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**

**(Matthew 25:31–34)**

**And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”**

**(Revelation 5:9–10)**

Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

(Revelation 20:4)



**42. What is the difference between the millennium and the new heavens and new earth?**

**Technically, the millennium is sometimes called “the new heavens and the new earth” (cf. Isaiah 65:17). The 1000 year millennial reign of Jesus is the intermediate period between this current age and the eternal state.**

# “The End-Times”

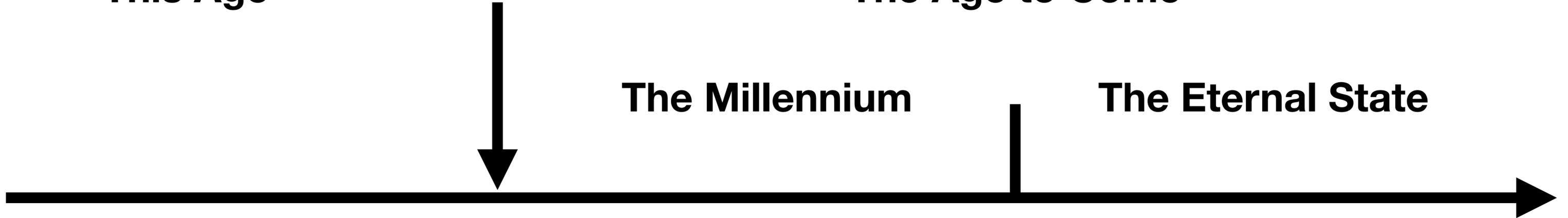
**This Age**

**The Return  
of Jesus**

**The Age to Come**

**The Millennium**

**The Eternal State**



**Our Hope, Our Inheritance, Our Destiny**



**43. Is that where we will spend all eternity?**

**Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”**

**(Revelation 21:1–5)**